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Japan

Hayashi Vows 'Appropriate Measures' on Yen Rise

OW1903031493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—The yen's latest spurt eased off in Tokyo currency dealings Friday morning as investors grew worried about the possible action by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to tame the topsy-turvy market.

The yen hit a historic high of 115.80 yen in early Friday deals after a disappointingly modest credit easing by the German Bundesbank induced bombardment on the dollar overnight in New York. But as critical remarks of the yen's latest surge were heard from Japanese officials and the possibility of dollar-supporting moves by the central bank loomed, Tokyo players became timid, leaving the yen-dollar trade in a boxed range straddling the 116 yen line.

At 10:30 A.M., the dollar was quoted at 115.98 yen, down 0.96 yen from Thursday's close of 116.94 yen but higher than the 115.80 yen opening quote. The dollar finished at 115.80-90 yen in New York and 116.85-95 yen in London the previous day.

"We had believed the BOJ will get involved when the dollar breaks through the 116 yen mark. So many feel a bit jittery over interventions," said Yuko Fukakusa, manager of the Treasury Division of Tokai Bank.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi, speaking at a press conference after the morning's cabinet meeting, condemned the yen's upturn of more than 1 yen against the dollar as "very speculative" and warned the authorities will take "appropriate measures" to stabilize the market.

Other ministers also voiced collective worries over a mighty yen, which they see as hampering domestic economic recovery.

Fukakusa said the static dollar-mark deals and investors holding off to see how overseas markets will move also contributed to braking the yen's upward march. "The market will remain locked for the rest of the day," she said.

Akio Fuji, a senior analyst with the Bank of Tokyo, said the chances are slim the yen will keep rising to top the 115 yen line in the coming sessions. "Investors will get cautious about buying the yen at higher levels" as they believe the central is waiting to cap the yen's advance when the dollar drops to 115 yen," he said.

Tokyo 'Anticipates' G-7 Ministerial Meeting

OW1903033593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Friday that Japan anticipates hosting a meeting of foreign and finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries around April 19 to discuss emergency aid to Russia.

Watanabe told reporters after a cabinet meeting that Japan is looking at that time as a "target" for the start of the proposed talks, which sources said would last two days. The meeting would fall before a national referendum which President Boris Yeltsin wants to hold on April 25, and is thus intended to demonstrate support for the beleaguered Russian president and his reform program.

Watanabe said Tokyo is the natural venue for the proposed talks since Japan will be hosting the G-7's annual summit in Tokyo from July 7 to 9. He also said the choice of Tokyo is not "completely unrelated" to the fact that he has been in poor health.

He said the talks should include foreign ministers in addition to finance ministers, since "there are political problems involved," and it is not simply a matter of the G-7 dishing out money to Russia.

He was apparently referring to a territorial dispute over islands off northern Japan seized by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II. Japan has withheld large-scale financial aid to Moscow pending a settlement.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration on Thursday welcomed the Japanese willingness to host a ministerial meeting. But White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos also told reporters that it is still "one of many options under consideration" on how the G-7 can best address the deteriorating political and economic situation in Russia.

Watanabe said Japan is not considering an emergency G-7 summit separate from the regularly scheduled summit and added that no G-7 member other than France is strongly pressing for one. He said the ministerial meeting should suffice as a "substitute" for the proposed emergency summit, adding that Japan is considering inviting a senior Russian official to attend.

He acknowledged that inviting a Russian Government official would have political significance ahead of the proposed referendum. Russian Deputy Premier Boris Fedorov was invited to a meeting of G-7 "sherpas," the personal representatives of the G-7 leaders, in Hong Kong last weekend to explain the Russian situation.

The talks would be held immediately after Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's return from the United States on April 18.

Watanabe declined to discuss the content of talks that Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada had in Washington on Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Owada, who arrived in Washington on Wednesday, will travel on to Europe after a stop in New York on Friday.

He said the talks are not being made public since Owada has to discuss the matter further with other G-7 governments in Europe. The G-7 is comprised of the Japan, U.S., Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada.

While Tokyo pushed for a special G-7 ministerial meeting on Russia, France continued to call for an emergency meeting of G-7 leaders in Canada after Clinton holds a bilateral summit meeting with Yeltsin in Vancouver on April 3 and 4. French officials in Paris said President Francois Mitterrand raised the idea in a telephone call to Clinton on Wednesday evening and the U.S. President said he would consider it.

The White House on Wednesday discounted an early G-7 summit, saying it is "one of the less likely possibilities." Both Germany and Britain are also reportedly leaning against holding a summit meeting specifically to deal with the Russian situation, but Canada has welcomed Mitterrand's proposal.

Owada Receives U.S. Agreement

OW1903031393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 18 KYODO—The United States agreed Thursday to accept Japan's proposal that ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations meet to discuss aid to Russia, Japanese officials said. The U.S. agreement came when Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada met Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss whether to hold the ministerial meeting rather than an emergency G-7 summit on the Russia question as proposed by France.

White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos said Washington welcomes "the Japanese willingness to have a meeting of the foreign ministers and finance ministers," but Japanese officials traveling with Owada said there was no surprising reaction from the U.S.

The Japanese Government is considering holding the G-7 ministers' meeting in Tokyo on April 19 and 20, shortly after Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's trip to Washington planned for April 15- 18, the officials said. The G-7 comprises the U.S., Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

After the meeting with Christopher, Owada talked on an unofficial basis with Strobe Talbott, ambassador-at-large and special adviser to Christopher on the former Soviet Union, to exchange views on specific measures to assist Russia, the officials said.

Owada reportedly sought U.S. understanding of Japan's stance on aid to economically strapped Russia, saying, "Assistance should be extended to Russia in forms of technical and humanitarian aid, rather than a fresh package of financial assistance."

He also held a separate talk with Peter Tarnoff, undersecretary of state for political affairs, and discussed such pressing issues as Japan's ballooning trade surplus with the U.S.

The two reportedly reaffirmed that Japan and the U.S. will join hands to deal with the volatile situation in Cambodia leading up to its planned May 23 to 25 general elections. They also said the two nations will cooperate to handle suspected nuclear development in North Korea, which declared last week its withdrawal from a nuclear control pact.

The Japanese vice foreign minister is scheduled to meet Thursday afternoon with Anthony Lake, U.S. President Bill Clinton's assistant for national security affairs, and other U.S. officials.

Owada, who arrived in Washington on Wednesday, will fly to Europe after a stop in New York on Friday. He will exchange views with French Government officials in Paris next Tuesday to narrow differences with France, which has demanded that G-7 leaders hold an emergency meeting in Paris on aid to Russia.

Tokyo Plans To Provide Nuclear Safety Aid

OW1903114293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japan will provide 12 million dollars toward multilateral efforts aimed at ensuring safety of nuclear power plants in the former Soviet Union and East European countries, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Sadaaki Numata told reporters Japan's first installment will be paid into an international account to be set up soon in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The bank's board of directors are expected to accept administration of the account when they meet next week. Numata said Japan will provide the total amount over a period of three years.

Leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations discussed the idea of setting up such an account at last year's annual summit in Munich.

Numata said the funds pledged by Japan will be supplemented by funds made available on a bilateral basis to former Soviet republics and East European countries to increase the safety of their nuclear power plants.

Miyazawa Rejects Sanctions Against DPRK

OW1903141593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] The Budget Committee of the House of Councillors held a session this afternoon. During the session,

Manae Kubota from the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan asked how the Japanese Government planned to deal with the decision by the DPRK to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Answering the question, Prime Minister Miyazawa said that it was important for Japan to give North Korea an opportunity to reconsider the decision before taking measures to counter it. In this way, the prime minister stressed that the Japanese Government would not take sanctions against North Korea, but would rather, for the time being, try to persuade North Korea to reverse its decision.

Expresses Extreme Regret

OW1903142893 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday that Japan will be prudent toward taking sanctions against North Korea for declaring its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Miyazawa said it is important to give Pyongyang a chance to reconsider whether to reverse its decision to quit the NPT.

The prime minister was replying to questions from Manae Kubota of the main opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) at the day's session of the House of Councillors' Budget Committee. Miyazawa said, "I feel it difficult to understand how North Korea will benefit from its withdrawal from the NPT...I extremely regret it."

On March 12, Pyongyang formally notified the United Nations Security Council of its decision to withdraw from the NPT to protest U.S.-South Korea military drills and what Pyongyang said is the partial treatment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on nuclear facilities inspection. The Vienna-based IAEA earlier gave North Korea a March 25 deadline to comply with its demands on special inspections of two suspected nuclear facilities that North Korea says are regular military installations and not subject to nuclear checks.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said at the same committee session that Japan will seek reversal of the North Korean decision.

Watanabe, who is also the deputy prime minister, said Japan will do its best to make Pyongyang know that withdrawal from the NPT can only heighten international suspicions about its nuclear intentions.

The debate in the budget committee followed a weeklong deadlock in the Diet. The reopening of Diet business will enable passage of the 72.35 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1993 through the Diet by March 31, political sources said.

Evidence Gathered From Korean 'Comfort Women'

OW1903015193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0049 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Government officials have questioned South Korean women who served as "comfort women" providing sex to Japanese soldiers at front-line brothels during World War II about whether they were forced to do so, according to government sources.

Officials of the prime minister's office conducted the hearings as part of an additional survey on the issue, which has long been a source of friction between Tokyo and Seoul, the sources said. The focus of the latest hearings was whether the women were forced to work in the brothels. They were asked to give their accounts of what happened to them and also about their demands for compensation.

An upper house member of the opposition Social Democratic Party mediated the hearings this month, which were held at the prime minister's office. Similar hearings were held last December.

The number of former comfort women who were questioned was not immediately known.

At the December hearing, former comfort women from China, North Korea, Taiwan, the Netherlands and the Philippines were also asked to describe what happened.

During the hearings, the Japanese officials expressed an apology to the women and promised to report what the women said to the chief cabinet secretary, the sources said.

The Japanese Government released the results of a survey on the issue last summer. But the survey did not prove whether the South Korean womens were forcibly recruited for the front-line brothels.

Foreign Ministry sources said the government will disclose the results of the current survey in June. The government is also considering holding further hearings with such women in South Korea if necessary, the sources said.

Observers said the government is likely to admit that the comfort women were forcibly taken to the front-line brothels in order to achieve an early settlement of the thorny issue. South Korean President Kim Yong-sam said last week he has no plans to seek compensation from Japan for the former comfort women.

Historians say an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly Korean, were taken to front-line brothels.

Taiwan Representative Urges Upgraded Contacts

OW1903105393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Taipei, March 19 KYODO—Taiwan's designated new top representative to Japan Lin Chin-ching on Friday urged Tokyo to upgrade bilateral contacts

through cabinet-level visits. "Tokyo may be hesitant because of Communist China, but only Japan seems to dislike the Republic of China (Taiwan)," said Lin, who will be inaugurated as head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan on April 15.

Beijing considers Taiwan to be a renegade province and usually harshly criticizes any moves that could appear as a recognition of the government in Taipei. Due to Beijing's strong "one-China policy" only 13 nations have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Taiwan severed ties with Japan when Tokyo and Beijing restored diplomatic relations 21 years ago, and in the past Beijing has reacted angrily to Japan-Taiwan initiatives.

Li, in an interview with KYODO News Service, said, "our country is promoting a six-year infrastructure project amounting to 41 trillion yen. "While other countries have sent people with cabinet-rank, Japan's interest appears to be half-hearted and we feel treated coldly."

Thanks to the large-scale government project Taiwan has been fairly successful over the last year in luring to Taipei foreign high-ranking officials who had avoided the island for more than a decade to avoid upsetting Beijing. Among them were the U.S. Trade Representative and French and German cabinet ministers.

Japan and Taiwan had their first open, though informal, cabinet-level contacts since breaking off relations, when Taiwan's top economic policy official Shirley W. Y. Kuo visited Tokyo last November.

Lin said that with the end of the cold war the times when Tokyo had to play the "China-card" to contain Russia are over. "Considering that exchange between China and Taiwan is advancing, Japan may be able to respond (to our wishes) more easily," Lin said.

In connection with Taiwan's still swelling trade deficit with Japan, which reached 12.9 billion dollars in 1992, Lin said that voices opposing purchase of Japanese products were growing louder on the island. "We have to make efforts from both sides by importing technology from Japan and exporting value-added products to Japan," Lin said.

Tokyo's Pesticide Offer to Cambodia Criticized

OW1903035393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 19 KYODO—Japan's decision to send pesticides to Cambodia is a glaring example of "misguided" and "poisonous" aid policies, say volunteer workers and others trying to rebuild the war-ravaged country. They say that handling foreign aid can be a mine field and cite Tokyo's plan to include 30 tons of pesticides in a 3.9 million-dollar package as the worst example of policies where assistance either overlaps with existing institutions and needs, or fails to meet needs at all.

Japan backtracked when presented with facts about the farming situation in Cambodia, and canceled the plan to send pesticides, which delighted Andrew McNaughton of Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC). But he was less happy when the sponsors of a seminar on rice farming in Phnom Penh—who included Japan's Agricultural Chemicals Association—tried last month to convince officials of Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture that pesticides are needed.

McNaughton accepts that Japan acted in good faith when it decided on pesticides as a gift, but said the decision was poorly thought out.

Japan International Volunteer Center specialist Hirono Azuma said that decision-makers of Official Development Assistance (ODA) often have little scientific background and depend on advisors from industry to make decisions, which are often inappropriate.

"Pesticides are the worst thing for Cambodia, but (some people in Tokyo) don't know that," Azuma said. "The Cambodians are unsure of what is ecologically sound, and the situation is not being helped," he said.

Anne Hickey, an insect specialist working with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)'s Cambodia project, is among the mildest critics of the Japanese pesticide gift, but also among the most concerned.

Funded by Canada'e IDRC which specializes in environmentally sound development, Hickey is only now embarking on an exhaustive program to understand Cambodia's rice culture and the pests that can reduce rice yields.

IRRI, long a leader in environmentally neutral ways of producing rice, has already developed natural pest control methods that either reduce or completely remove the need for chemical pesticides. Rice is the staple food of Cambodia's 9 million people.

In Indonesia, IRRI's program has been so successful that the government to longer subsidizes pesticide use and has banned all production of pesticide within the country.

In Cambodia, where farming has been reduced "almost to year zero," according to one agricultural specialist, the chance to introduce environmentally sound farming principles from the ground up is almost without parallel anywhere else in the world.

Preliminary investigations by IRRI taxonomists show that there are on average 2.5 natural predators for every rice pest in most paddies in Cambodia. "That would indicate an 'integrated pest management' (IPM), that does not require harmful chemicals, will work here," Hickey said.

IRRI, after understanding the nature of rice agriculture in Cambodia, plans to begin training programs with Ministry of Agriculture field workers that will then train

farmers in the fields to control pests naturally. But if an influx of farm chemicals is allowed, the entire program could be put in jeopardy.

IRRI's Hickey said another problem stems from pesticides already on the open market in Cambodia.

"The labels on the chemicals are in Thai or Vietnamese, the sellers give no safety information and often not even information on how much pesticide to use." She said that most Cambodian farmers, if they can afford pesticide, use a dangerous and inefficient sprayer to apply the chemicals "that do absolutely no good at all."

"IRRI knows there are chemicals here, and we are working to at least provide labels in Khmer that will allow people to use them safely. But we hope that the situation can be calmed to point where donors work harder to understand the real needs of the recipients, not just the needs of the donors."

Others familiar with the plethora of aid groups working to bring Cambodia "from the middle ages to the modern world," say the pesticide fiasco is only emblematic.

"It is not a question of Japan, or of business, or of other factors, but a question of providing appropriate training and understanding that respects the local capacity to absorb aid," said Japan International Volunteer Center representative Hiroshi Taniyama. "There must be more consultation (with those of us on ground)."

Diet Business Resumes After Weeklong Deadlock

OW1903072993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—The governing and opposition parties in the House of Councillors on Friday resumed Diet deliberations on the fiscal 1993 budget after a weeklong deadlock following an overnight agreement over the handling of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin mob-and-money scandal.

The restarting of Diet business will make it possible to pass the 72.35 trillion yen budget through the upper house by March 31. The new fiscal year starts on April 1 and it would be the first time since 1971 that a fiscal budget has won Diet approval before the start of the new fiscal year.

Speaking at the upper house budget committee session, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized to the public for the indictment of former ruling Liberal Democratic Party Vice President Shin Kanemaru over tax evasion. Miyazawa is also the president of the LDP.

"I apologize for discouraging public trust in politics and politicians. The incident has brought about a crisis in democracy," Miyazawa said.

He made the remarks in response to questions by Kazuo Oikawa of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) over the Kanemaru affair.

Miyazawa also reiterated his resolution to carry out political reform immediately to recover public trust in politics.

Kanemaru, 78, was arrested on March 6 along with an aide for allegedly evading 400 million yen in taxes on 800 million yen worth of income and was indicted for violation of the income tax law last Saturday. Prosecutors are considering further charges against Kanemaru over alleged attempts to conceal billions of yen in income.

As for four political reform bills the LDP is considering submitting to the current Diet session, Miyazawa reiterated his hope that they would be handled as a single package. Miyazawa was replying to LDP member Michiko Ishii, who asked for his view on giving priority to a bill aimed at imposing stringent restrictions on political funds.

The LDP political reform panel on Tuesday endorsed an outline of the bills governing political funds and introducing single-seat constituencies.

The LDP and opposition parties agreed to leave the problem of summoning witnesses to Budget Committee Chairman Kaname Endo on condition that the LDP member take note of opposition demands to call more witnesses to the committee to testify under oath in connetion with the Sagawa scandal.

Miyazawa: Tokyo Plans New Pump-Priming Package

OW1903080693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the Diet on Friday that the government will prepare additional measures to stimulate the economy. He disclosed the government's plan in the House of Councillors Budget Committee during a debate on the budget for fiscal 1993, starting April 1, but did not specify the timing or size of such a package.

Last August the government announced a 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package to get the economy out of its slump.

Miyazawa said Friday the current economic slump is the first of its kind experienced by Japan and financial institutions have suffered a serious blow from a decline in the value of assets. He said he hopes that the budget will give a boost to the domestic economy but added the government will do whatever it can to stimulate economic recovery.

To Help Spur 'Sagging Economy'

OW1903133293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) plan to work out a 13-14 trillion yen pump-priming package by mid-April to help spur the sagging economy, party sources said. The economic stimulus package will be the largest

ever, surpassing the 10.7 trillion yen measures announced last August to lift the economy from its worst slump in almost two decades.

The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will approve the package at a cabinet meeting on April 13, two days before he leaves for the United States to meet President Bill Clinton, the sources said. Miyazawa is scheduled to meet with Clinton in Washington on April 16, the first summit between the two countries after Clinton assumed office in January.

The package is intended to put the faltering economy back on a proper track following the current boost in stock prices and declines in inventories, which are signs of economic recovery, they said.

The new package is expected to include 9.0 trillion yen for public works projects, a 400 billion yen increase from the previous package. It also will include tax cuts amounting to 1 trillion yen, the sources said.

It will also incorporate measures for the establishment of an optic fiber communications network and the introduction of computer systems into schools, they said.

The LDP and the Finance Ministry have reached a basic agreement to issue construction bonds as part of revenue sources to finance the measures, they said.

To encourage investment in securities, the package will expand the limit of stock investment by public funds such as "kampo," a postal life insurance program.

OECD Economist Urges Spurring Domestic Demand

OW1903115593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japan ought to spur its domestic demand through increased investments and that would help ease its trade surpluses with other countries, the chief economist of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Friday. Kumiharu Shigehara said that does not mean Japan should restrain its savings but rather facilitate spending on such things as corporate plant and equipment, housing, and public works investments.

Japan's annual trade surplus in 1992 came to a record high of 130 billion dollars as a result of sluggish domestic demand, recovery of the U.S economy, and the higher yen against the U.S. dollar, which boosted the surplus on the books, he said.

With respect to the Japanese public works spending, Shigehara called for expanding its range from traditional fields to areas like fostering human resources.

Shigehara, currently visiting Japan, is the chief economist for the Paris-based think tank of the world's leading industrialized countries.

Although predicting that Japan's recession is likely to last for a while, Shigehara indicated some caution about pump-priming measures the government is expected to announce soon in addition to last summer's 10.7 trillion yen package. The effects of a fiscal stimulus, which appear after a time lag, may excessively accelerate a future autonomous recovery of business conditions, he warned. "While acting with speed and flexibility, it is important to be careful not to distort fiscal positions from medium-term perspectives," he said.

Turning to global conditions, Shigehara said it is unlikely that the world will see a strong economic recovery in the near future. He said the balance sheet problems of corporations, financial institutions, and even households are expected to continue, while large national fiscal deficits, sluggish employment conditions, and uncertainties over trade problems, not to mention the long-stalled Uruguay round of multilateral talks, are combining to weaken general confidence about the world economy.

It is necessary to improve national savings and investment balances without further piling up fiscal deficits, therefore structural reforms of tax systems and cutting government expenditures are required, Shigehara said. Nations with fiscal deficits, including the United States, must work harder to trim them, he said. In this respect, the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton needs to do even more than it has recently proposed, Shigehara said.

LDP Official Urges Active Capital Investment

OW1903105793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A senior ruling party official called on Japan's major industries Friday to promote capital investment to help shore up the domestic economy. Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Political Affairs Research Council, made the appeal in a meeting with industry representatives on ways to end the economic slump, party officials said.

Mitsuzuka was quoted as saying that cooperation of industries, which account for 80 percent of the country's economic activity, is vital for the government's efforts to stimulate the economy.

Representatives from major industries, including the automobile, steel, and electronics sectors, attended the meeting called by a party task force on countering the recession, the officials said.

Mitsuzuka said the ruling party intends to promote a giant transport and telecommunications network project linking Japan's four main islands. The task force will work out new pump-priming measures based on views expressed by the industry representatives, the officials said.

Government Finds Savings Rising Steadily

OW1903085493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A government survey released Friday shows the decade-old tendency of Japanese households' steadily increasing their savings has not changed and officials said the trend is likely to continue. According to the management and coordination agency, the ratio of salaried workers' savings to their annual income has been constantly increasing because Japan's population is aging.

"Structural elements like the higher average age and the relatively greater amount of savings by senior citizens are pushing up" the figures, an agency official said.

Savings by households of salaried workers gained 5.2 percent in 1992 from the year before to an average 11.87 million yen, while those of nonsalaried workers rose 4.3 percent to 21.25 million yen. However, the average savings for salaried workers was boosted by a few rich families, and most savings were concentrated in the 3-6 million yen range. The savings of salaried workers amounted to about 1.6 times their annual income.

Mirroring the sluggishness of share prices last year, savings made in the form of securities plunged 16.0 percent, while those in fixed-term deposits climbed 9.6 percent despite lower interest rates. The year-on-year drop of investments into securities was the third in a row.

The government survey conducted once a year also found that more than half of families with salaried workers over the age of 60 have savings of more than 15 million yen.

A healthy increase of pension savings such as pension insurance indicate more Japanese concerned about their future.

Meanwhile, debts carried by households of salaried workers shed 0.4 percent from the year before to 3.11 million yen. Housing and real estate debts fell 3.1 percent year on year, declining for the first time in 12 years. The agency said the result mirrors lower per capita spending for real estate in the face of the economic slowdown and cheaper land prices.

The survey was conducted last December 31 on 6,100 households nationwide.

Spokesman Comments on Kokubo's Racial Remarks

OW1903092693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) politician's remarks Thursday [18 March] that shaking hands with blacks makes him feel his hands are getting dirty is prejudicial and an apology is required, Japan's top government spokesman said in a statement Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said in a press conference that the reported remarks by Masao Kokubo, a member of the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly, "have rather strong racial overtones" and are "quite inappropriate." He said if the reports are accurate, Kokubo "should duly express his regret for making such remarks...as they express sentiments of prejudice against foreigners."

Kono said the remarks "in no way reflect the general feelings of the Japanese people."

Kokubo told the assembly's special budget committee on Thursday, "I understand discrimination is wrong in practice but when shaking hands with black people I have the feeling my hands are getting black."

The 58-year-old politician called it "awful to see people such as Pakistanis or Indians gathering in a group." "It presents no problem if they act according to the proverb 'when in Rome, do as the Romans.' But they form their own ghettos and lead their own lives. They are outsiders," he said.

Kono's statement, which was an unusually swift reaction to a potentialty inflammatory remark, appeared to have been made in mind of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's mid-April visit to Washington.

Reflecting the government's efforts at crisis management, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sadaaki Numata echoed Kono's statements in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

Kono told reporters it would be "extremely unfortunate if (Kokubo's) remarks were reported as if they represent a view held by the majority of the Japanese people, which they do not," Kono said.

Memories remain of U.S. criticism levelled at Japan in the past when its politicans made prejudicial remarks.

In 1990, the governing LDP sent a group of parliamentarians to Washington to apologize for a remark made by then Justice Minister Seiroki Kajiyama comparing the arrival of foreign prostitutes in Japan to blacks in the United States moving into neighborhoods and pushing original residents out.

In 1988, Michio Watanabe, who is now the foreign minister, said American blacks are loose with their credit cards and have few qualms about going bankrupt.

In 1986, then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said the overall intelligence level in the U.S. has been brought down because the population includes a considerable number of blacks, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans.

North Korea

Further Reaction to NPT Withdrawal

Envoy: Deadline 'Irrelevant'

OW1903094893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0548 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] New York, March 18 KYODO—North Korea's Ambassador to the United Nations Ho Chong on Thursday [18 March] dismissed as irrelevant an extension on a deadline to comply with demands for international inspections of its suspect nuclear facilities. Ho said the extension "does not matter to us" and North Korea's decision remains unchanged "unless the continued and increased nuclear threat of the U.S. is removed and the impartiality of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is restored."

The agency demanded last month that Pyongyang permit special inspections of two suspected nuclear waste facilities that North Korea insists are military installations and not subject to the nuclear checks. The IAEA gave Pyongyang a March 25 deadline and suggested that if unresolved, the matter would be taken to the U.N. Security Council which could place economic sanctions on the already financially strapped nation. Ho warned against sanctions, saying, "my country is fully prepared to take another strong self-measure, if such international pressure is taken." Ho's remarks echoed earlier declarations by North Korean officials that unspecified "self-defensive measures" would be taken against encroachments on North Korean sovereignty.

This week, the Vienna-based IAEA indicated it would extend its inspections deadline to March 31, but Ho said, "whatever decision they are going to make, it entirely depends on firstly the U.S. and then the attitude of the IAEA." North Korea contends the agency is dominated by the United States and with the start of joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises in South Korea last week, Pyongyang abruptly announced it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The announcement drew worldwide expressions of concern and heightened tension on the Korean peninsula as Pyongyang ordered North Korea on a "semiwar" footing. North Korea and the U.S. held a meeting between embassy officials in Beijing where Pyongyang hinted it may consider retracting the decision to pull out of the treaty. Ho said negotiations between North Korea and the U.S. are the "most reasonable way" to rid the Korean peninsula of the "nuclear threat of the U.S. and make the peninsula a nuclear-free zone." "We are watching how Washington reacts," Ho said.

'Source': DPRK Retraction Possible

OW1803041493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0402 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 18 KYODO—North Korea on Wednesday [17 March] suggested to the United States a possibility that it may retract its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), a diplomatic source in Bejing disclosed Thursday [18 March]. Whether Pyongyang cited any conditions for its retracting the decision is not known immediately. North Korea made the suggestion at U.S.-North Korean counsellor-level talks in Beijing, the source said.

LSWYK Supports Withdrawal Statement

SK1903103993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYL] Thursday made public a statement supporting the statement of the DPRK Government declaring withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The statement says:

"We have the revolutionary armed forces of self-defence capable of defeating those who attempt to infringe upon the supreme interests of the country and violate the dignity of the nation and have five million youths ready for a decisive battle.

"The U.S. imperialists and their followers are now attempting to threaten and stifle us with international 'sanctions' and 'blockade', but this only whips our people, youth and students into fiercer fury and makes them renew their determination to take revenge upon the aggressors.

"No one on earth can match the invincible might of our people and People's Army who are under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the iron-willed brilliant commander who has matchless grit and ever-victorious commanding art, holding him in high esteem as the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces.

"The United States and its followers must not act recklessly, looking straight at the firm determination and unshakable will of our people, youth and students.

"The South Korean authorities must turn back to the stand of national independence and act with discretion, not taking the disgraceful road of depending on outside forces, following the big powers which are trying to make our nation a victim of a nuclear war.

"If the U.S. imperialists and their stooges encroach upon our dignity and sovereignty in defiance of our solemn warning, our angry people will rise up like a mountain and mete out a stern punishment to them".

Radio Finds Support in South

SK1803224893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 18 (KCNA)—South Korean people expressed full support to the statement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea declaring the withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

Noting that he was struck with admiration upon hearing the news that the North declared its withdrawal from the NPT, a movieman Yi said with pride "March 12, 1993 is a historical day when our nation put the nose of the arrogant United States out of joint once again to win the applause of the world." Chong Song-ho, a teacher in Seoul, said the North's declaration of withdrawal from the NPT means sounding an alarm to the ambition for world domination of the United States which styles itself the international gendarme.

"It is by no means easy to make such a bold decision under the present complex international political situation in which the United States is arbitrarily encroaching on the sovereignty of small countries through its military power and pressure through international organizations. It immediately depends on the leader's will and grit."

Choe Chong-su, a student in Pusan, said the North's declaration of withdrawal from the NPT is a legitimate step for self-defence which fully conforms to the principle of international justice and impartiality.

"The present rulers who are taking the van in vilifying the statement, far from backing it, are bound to face condemnations from the 70 million fellow countrymen for their despicable flunkeyist treachery," he said.

Saying the statement of the North declaring the withdrawal from the NPT is a thunderbolt-like declaration, a university professor Yu in Seoul warned that the United States should clearly realize that its policy of strength cannot go down with the North and stop acting rashly.

UNSC Receive Letter on NPT

SK1903105093 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1042 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—A letter of the foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announcing its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was delivered to the president of the United Nations Security Council. The letter was distributed as official document S/25403 of the U.N. Security Council.

Former War Correspondent Repatriated to North

Yi In-mo Arrives in Panmunjom

SK1903124593 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1053 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Panmunjom, March 19 (KCNA)—Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, who is being repatriated to the socialist motherland more than 40 years after he left it, arrived at our side's portion of Panmunjom on the morning of March 19.

He has been crippled under all manner of persecution and harsh tortures in his 34 years of prison life for the reason that he resolutely refused ideological conversion forced by the South Korean authorities since he was taken prisoner with bullet wounds while serving as a war correspondent of the Korean People's Army during the Fatherland Liberation War (From June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953).

The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il praised Yi In-mo as the incarnation of faith and will and the hero of reunification who did not abandon his faith and will in whatever adversities for the party and the leader, the country and the people, and have devoted all efforts and energy to see that he returns to the North and spend the remainder of his life comfortably at his home where his dear wife and daughter live.

At 11:00, Yi In-mo was carried into the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in a wheel-chair, with an injection needle driven in the subclavian artery for Ringer's solution.

The liaison officials of both sides of the North-South liaison office at Panmunjon settled working matters and a doctor of our side made a simple diagnosis of Yi's health condition.

His wife, daughter, son-in-law, grandson and granddaughters rushed to him, shedding big tears, and had an emotion-charged reunion with him.

Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Kim Ki-nam and Yun Ki-pok, secretaries of the party Central Committee; Kim Pok-sin, vice-premier of the Administration Council; Kim Kwang-chin, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army; Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Red Cross Society; leading officials of the Kaesong municipal party and power bodies; and delegates of veterans met him with the kindred feelings at the Tongil House in our portion of Panmunjom.

Secretary Kye Ung-tae told Yi that President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il warmly congratulated him, greatly rejoiced over his repatriation to the socialist motherland.

With warm tears Yi In-mo expressed heartfelt thanks to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il for showing such deep love and trust to him, an unknown soldier who was no more than a war correspondent.

Tens of thousands of people of Kaesong warmly welcomed him along the long route from our side's portion of Panmunjom to Kaesong, shouting "Welcome to Yi In-mo," "Yi In-mo, hero of reunification," "Yi In-mo, an immortal," "Yi In-mo, incarnation of faith" and "Yi In-mo, incarnation of will".

Set up in different parts of the route were slogans reading "Warm welcome to Comrade Yi In-mo who is returning to

the bosom of the great general!" "Warm welcome to Comrade Yi In-mo, the hero of reunification!" "Warm welcome to comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will!" and posters welcoming the repatriation of the hero.

The return of Yi In-mo to the bosom of the great leader and the party, repulsing all manner of repression is a victory of socialism over capitalism and another historical event which demonstrates the invincibility of our-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

Yi's family met and exchanged greetings with Kim Sang-won and his wife, the doctor and the nurse in charge who had taken utmost care of Yi in South Korea and presented them with souvenirs.

Arrives in Sariwon City

SK1903111593

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0900 GMT 19 March carries recorded coverage of Yi In-mo's arrival in Sariwon City enroute to Pyongyang. The announces tells about slogans put up along the streets to welcome Yi In-mo's return and describes the people lining up to welcome Yi In-mo's arrival. He says Yi In-mo's return shows the superiority of "our own style of socialism."

The announcer says that Choe Mun-son, responsible secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the North Hwanghae People's Committee; responsible functionaries of the working people's organizations; and veterans welcome Yi In-mo. The announcer says that "Comrade Chce Yong-kil, responsible secretary of the Sariwon City party committee and chairman of the Sariwon City People's Committee, delivered a banner on which was written, 'Yi In-mo, hero of reunification,' to Comrade Yi In-mo."

Ater describing the people's feelings about Yi In-mo's return, the announces says that Yi In-mo left for Pyongyang amid the people's warm compatriotic welcome in Sariwon City.

Arrives in Pyongyang

SK1903133393

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 19 March carries recorded coverage of Yi In-mo's arrival in Pyongyang.

The announcer says that people of all strata are lining up along Tongil Street to welcome Yi In-mo on his arrival. Slogans of welcome also line Tongil Street. The announcer says that Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and vice president; Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Kim Yong-sun, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Kuk-tae and Comrade Kim Chung-nin, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Kang Sok-sung, director of the Party Historical Research Center; KPA generals; and other responsible functionaries of party and government organizations, administrative and economy organizations, working people's organizations in Pyongyang are waiting along Tongil Street.

When the car carrying Yi In-mo arrives, people rush into the street. The announcer praises Yi In-mo's indomitable conviction while being tortured in prison praises his ideology as great national pride. The announcer notes the people's warm compatriotic feelings toward Yi In-mo's return.

The car in which Yi In-mo is riding goes to Pyongyang Station Plaza, Kim Il-song Plaza, and Mansudae Street. The announcer describes the people holding gifts for Yi In-mo. The announcer says Yi In-mo's life shows how our people live and act. The announcer notes the people's ardent wish for Yi In-mo's quick recovery and happy life in the DPRK.

Kim Il-song Extends Congratulations

SK1903043493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Panmunjom, March 19 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, warmly congratulated Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and a long-term prisoner who refused to be converted, greatly rejoiced over his return to the socialist homeland.

The congratulations were conveyed to Yi by Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the Tongil House in our side's portion of Panmunjom today.

On February 24, 1993 Comrade Kim Chong-il sent the daughter of Yi an autographic reply letter reading "our party keeps in memory comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will" after reading her letter addressed to him. The autographic reply letter is carried by NODONG SINMUN and other dailies here today.

Daughter's Letter to Kim Chong-il

SK1903055793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Letter from Yi Hyon-ok, daughter of Yi In-mo and deputy principal of Pyongyang Kaeson Senior Middle School, to Comrade Kim Chong-il, on 8 February 1993—read by announcer]

[Text] I respectfully send this letter to you, Marshall Kim Chong-il, dear leader of our party and people.

Dear Marshall Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader of our party and people and the guiding star for the cause of national reunification:

I, daughter of Yi In-mo, a long-term convict and non-convert who was formerly a correspondent of the Korean People's Army, bow on my knees wishing the dear comrade leader, who marks the 50th birthday amid honor and blessings extended by all people, good health and long life.

Even amid the busy time when you must look after all state affairs, minor and major, you assessed patriotic acts of my father, a unheralded common fighter, and extended benevolence to him. Upholding you, dear comrade leader, I cannot repress a sense of thanks that overflows from my heart.

You, dear comrade leader, sent me, an unheralded female teacher, to the third international seminar on Asian peace and the role of women as a delegate, and saw to it that I have the honor of seeing the fatherly leader whom I longed to see even in my dreams, thus extending your great love to me.

My father, a non-convert and long-term convict, thanked deeply the benevolence of the fatherly leader who gave a bright hope of national liberation to our people who lived amid various disgraces in the past, and implemented new politics based on human love. My father tried to fulfill his deserved mission as a son of the nation in order to repay the great benevolence extended by the leader.

Dear comrade leader assessed my father as an incarnation of faith and will and heralded him to the entire world. I have no word to express my deep thanks for such endless benevolence.

Following in my mother's footsteps, I am teaching at a school. My father ardently aspired to national reunification and national prosperity. I think it is my due mission to excellently foster the new generations who will live in the reunified fatherland.

As taught by the dear comrade leader, I keenly realize that as long as there is the party and the leader, our revolution will be victorious and our nation will be reunified without fail. Just as my father, who fought by keeping his principles as a revolutionary, I will offer everything I have for the dear comrade leader even if my body becomes like ashes in a fire and fades in water as as does foam.

Living in this way is the very way for repaying the benevolence of the dear comrade leader who extended his great love and trust to my father and to our family. I believe this is the way for expediting national reunification and our meeting with my father.

As an educational worker, I will devote all of my wisdom and strength to foster the new generations to make them incarnations of faith and will that will trust and follow only the party and the leader, and will defend socialism in our country to the end.

My family and I ardently wish the dear leader Marshall Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

[Dated] 8 February 1993

[Signed] Yi Hyon-ok, daughter of Yi In-mo

Kim Chong-il Replies to Letter

SK1903051893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il read a letter from Yi In-mo's daughter, Yi Hyon-ok, who is deputy principal of Pyongyang Kaeson Senior Middle School, and sent the following autographic reply:

"Our party keeps in memory comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will.

[Signed] Kim Chong-il
[Dated] Feb. 24, 1993"

In her letter Yi Hyon-ok said she could not find proper words to express her unbounded gratitude for the benevolence of the dear leader who chose her, an ordinary school mistress, as a delegate to the "third international seminar on peace in Asia and the role of women" and granted her the honour of being received by the great leader President Kim Il-song and has made her father known to the whole world as the incarnation of faith and will.

Saying that she took up teaching to succeed her mother and that she deemed it her bounden duty to bring up a fine younger generation to live in a reunified country because what her father wanted to see was the Reunification of the country and its prosperity, she wrote:

"I will devote my all for the sake of you the dear leader, even if i were reduced to ashes in flames and to underwater bubbles, like my father who fought in defence of his creed as a revolutionary, not abandoning his faith, because he knew well that our revolution was sure to win and the country would be reunified without fail as long as there are the party and the leader.

"I, as an educationist, will devote all my wisdom and efforts to rearing the rising generation as the incarnation of faith and will believing and following only the party and the leader and defending our socialism to the end, come what howling wind."

She wholeheartedly wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

KCNA: Yi 'Hero of Reunification'

SK1903112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—More than 200,000 Pyongyangites today warmly welcomed along tens-of-ri-long route Comrade Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who had served long terms of prison in South Korea, refusing to be converted, as the incarnation of faith and will, hero of reunification and a proud son of the nation.

Yi had been held prisoner, wounded while serving as a war correspondent during the Korean war, should have been sent back during the postwar exchange of POWs.

But, he had been detained in South Korea, falling a victim to the unreasonable North-South confrontation moves of the successive rulers of South Korea.

Since Yi was reported alive, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has raised the issue of his repatriation from the humanitarian point of view and made every possible effort to this end.

The Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross society sent a letter to the South Korean Red Cross in January 1991 urging his repatriation and several organizations of the DPRK also pressed such demand more than once.

The DPRK strongly urged the repatriation of Yi In-mo at several rounds of the North-South high-level talks and Red Cross talks.

As a result, the premiers of both sides agreed on this matter at the 8th North-South high-level talks held in Pyongyang in September last year. However, the South side refused to send him back, politicizing the purely humanitarian problem.

The South Korean authorities turned down even the proposal to send a consolatory group of the North side to South Korea to call on him in sick bed.

Men of the press and women in the North held meetings urging his repatriation and people of various social strata published through mass media articles reflecting their ardent feelings.

The Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross society sent letters to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights calling for worldwide support to the repatriation of Yi In-mo. The Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union sent an appeal to the progressive men of the press around the world.

Yi's wife Kim Sun-im and his daughter Yi Hyon-ok had thought that he fell in action during the war. But, since they knew that he was still alive, they had expressed their strong wish to reunite with him.

They sent a letter to the committee of the struggle for the release of long-term prisoners under the family movement for democracy in South Korea expressing the hope that it would actively struggle for his repatriation prompted by patriotism and humanism and the idea of national reunification.

They made similar appeals in their letters to the United Nations secretary general, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and other international organizations, national human rights organizations and Red Cross organizations.

Kim Sun-im and Yi Hyon-ok also sent a request to the men of the press across the world and their international organizations.

South Korean people of various strata unanimously demanded his repatriation, concerned over his miserable plight and bad condition.

A vigorous international solidarity movement for Yi's repatriation was conducted.

The Korean people and the world progressive people hope that Comrade Yi In-mo, a hero of reunification who has returned to the socialist homeland he had longed for awake and asleep after 40 odd years since he left his home town will be completely recovered as quickly as possible.

Papers Welcome Yi In-mo Return

SK1903124193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 19 Mar 93

["Press in Pyongyang Welcomes Repatriation of Comrade Yi In-mo, Hero of Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—All the newspapers here today warmly welcome Comrade Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who is returning to the embrace of the socialist motherland, the benevolent bosom of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, after winning in the fight against the enemy.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON come out with editorials under the respective titles "Warm Greetings to Comrade Yi In-mo, the Incarnation of Faith and Will" and "The Motherland Warmly Embraces the Incarnation of Faith and Will."

The editorial of NODONG SINMUN says the return to the DPRK of Comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, the hero of reunification and a proud son of the nation is a brilliant victory of the sincere efforts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government for his repatriation, and a shining fruition of the vigorous struggle for his repatriation waged not only among the fellow countrymen but on a worldwide scale.

"As the great party and the great leader have defended and taken care of him, Comrade Yi In-mo never felt alone but lived with fortitude, always yearning for the embrace of the motherland, although he had to live in South Korea for more than 40 years with no flesh and blood to rely on, and finally, could come to the tender care of the motherland," the editorial says, and stresses:

"Indeed, Comrade Yi In-mo's return to the DPRK from the corrupt and ailing South Korean society is a manifestation of his loyalty and filial piety to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party and of his will and faith in socialism and, at the same time, a convincing proof of the invincibility and extraordinary attraction of the socialist system of our own style centred on the masses."

The daily carries his photograph under the title "Comrade Yi In-mo, the Incarnation of Faith and Will."

Under the blockletter title "Warm Welcome to Comrade Yi In-mo, a Proud Son of the Nation," it runs articles captioned "The Hero of Reunification Returns," "Patriotic Fighter Who Devoted His Whole Life to Reunification" and "Phoenix Overcomes All Difficulties" and conveys reaction to it at home and abroad as well as a poem "Please Come."

MINJU CHOSON conveys what working people of broad strata said under the title "Warm Hearts of People Across the Country Upon Greeting Comrade Yi In-mo, Proud Son of the Nation, Great Auspicious Event."

The daily also devotes one whole page to a political essay "Faith Cannot Be Bound in Chain," a poem "Son of the Nation Returns" and articles "A 40 Year Long Course Traversed by a Phoenix" and "The Road To Be Trodden by the Hero."

CPRF Denounces U.S. Secretary of State's Remarks

SK1903103893 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued its Information No. 623 on March 18 denouncing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who recently said the question of leaving behind the U.S. troops which had participated in the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises in South Korea would be decided according to the change of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The information says his is a very ill-boding remark indicating that the United States is going to leave the huge U.S. Army troops and equipment involved in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in South Korea on the pretext of the withdrawal of the DPRK Government from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and unleash an aggressive war against the northern half of Korea any moment.

Whether the tension is eased, or increased on the Korean peninsula entirely depends on the attitude of the United States, it says.

It demands that if the United States really wants the relaxation of tension and peace on the Korean peninsula, it should declare an end to the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for good and withdraw its huge troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea without delay, instead of introducing more aggression forces there.

ROK Defense Minister's Support for U.S. Forces Denounced

SK1803051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0502 GMT 18 Mar 93

["Flunkeyist Color of War Servant"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet defence minister in a "message" to the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in South Korea said they "are devoting themselves to the security" of the Korean peninsula and "maximum support" will be given to the U.S. Forces.

Commenting on this, MINJU CHOSON today brands this as a mean and disgusting act.

The news analyst says:

The U.S. Forces present in South Korea are the very one who disturbs peace and security of the Korean peninsula.

It is not for the security of the peninsula but to back the U.S. colonial rule over South Korea and invade the whole of Korea that the U.S. Forces are stationed in South Korea.

It is due to the U.S. Forces' occupation of South Korea that the country was divided and has not yet been reunified and the danger of a nuclear war is increasing. This is why the Korean nation is strongly demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces from South Korea.

Having just taken his office, the puppet defence minister has already fully revealed his flunkeyist color as a warmaniac.

If the South Korean authorities truly want to pursue "civilian politics" and achieve "great national unity" they must discard the stand of depending on outside forces, stop the "Team Spirit" military exercises against fellow countrymen and take a step for the pullout of the U.S. troops from South Korea, as demanded by the fellow countrymen.

Group Urges South To Stop 'U.S Imperialists' Moves'

SK1903001893 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1518 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland in an appeal today said, "we ardently appeal to all the political parties, groupings and people of all social standings in South Korea to vigorously struggle to smash the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges which wrecked national reconciliation and unity and barred the North-South dialogue and the implementation of the inter-Korean agreement."

"The withdrawal of the DPRK Government from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is a most just patriotic measure reflecting the steadfast faith and will of the entire Korean people to safeguard the dignity and sovereignty of our nation and defend the socialism of our own style to the end," the appeal says.

Noting that the United States and its followers, however, are making desperate efforts to mobilize every conceivable means of threat ranging from diplomatic pressure to military sanctions against this legitimate step of the DPRK, it goes on:

"Subsequently, the dark clouds of another war, a nuclear war are coming hourly to hover over the territory of our country.

"If another war, a nuclear war break out on the Korean peninsula due to the adventure of the U.S. imperialists and their followers, it is our nation in the North and the South that will be the first victim of its scourge, and it is our three thousand-ri land including South Korea that will be the first to be devastated.

"Any attempt to gratify one's sinister political ambition on the strength of a great power, reposing expectations in its 'nuclear umbrella', at the moment when sophisticated mass destruction weapons are no longer a monopoly of one country, will result in only making our nation a victim of nuclear holocaust.

"Our nation which has suffered all sorts of calamities and hardships for nearly a century due to the national ruin and division resulting from the big powers' 'scramble for power', should seek its own way to live by themselves, not pinning hope on outside forces any longer.

"Awaken, compatriots and brethren in South Korea!

"Should you remain indifferent to the moves of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen who stage nuclear war exercises against the fellow countrymen in the North on the cloak of 'defense' and kick up a row for 'special inspection' on the plea of 'nuclear suspicion', you yourselves would fall victim to the resulting scourge and the whole nation suffer immeasurable misfortunes in the long run. You should never be oblivious of this.

"The people of all social standings in South Korea,

You should put aside the difference in isms and ideas and decisively smash the U.S. imperialists' moves of aggression and plot to unleash a nuclear war under the banner of anti-U.S. independence.

"There is no war when there is no aggressor in the country, and no nuclear war when it is free of nuclear weapons.

"Let the whole nation courageously turn out to the anti-U.S., anti-war struggle for peace to get the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from the inviolable territory of our country and make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone!

"The South Korean people of broad strata should properly discern between the conflicting stands of patriotism and treachery, national independence and dependence on outside forces, and vigorously set out on the patriotic road of justice, united closely under the banner of independence and peace.

Daily: Military Threat Cannot 'Frighten' People

SK1903124093 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1135 GMT 19 Mar 93

["Military Threat Cannot Frighten Korean People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and other imperialist reactionaries cannot frighten the Korean people with any military threat, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Noting that not only the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets resumed the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises on the plea of the North's "nuclear arms development" but the United States made the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopt a "resolution" to force a "special inspection" on the DPRK, the article says:

This is a move to isolate and stifle the DPRK and stamp out the Korean-style socialism.

The U.S. imperialists, however, made a miscalculation on the Korean people.

Their nuclear stick is by no means almighty.

Koreans are a dignified people who have regarded their national independence as what keeps them alive from olden times. They would rather die than live a wretched life as other's slaves.

The Korean people are now filled with the indomitable will to defend the socialist homeland of chuche like an impregnable fortress.

The Korean people have a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces capable of repulsing any formidable enemy, equipped with sophisticated means of attack and defence, as well as the indestructible might of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

If the U.S. imperialists and other imperialist reactionaries should intend to apply to Korea the method of aggression they had employed against other regions and countries, claiming "international sanctions" and the like, it would mean an irretrievable, big blunder.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must act with discretion, clearly mindful that they cannot trample upon an inch of the land and a blade of grass of the DPRK with impunity.

Daily: Army Can Defeat 'Any Formidable Enemy'

SK1903115693 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1129 GMT 19 Mar 93

["Our People's Army Is Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces Capable of Defeating Any Formidable Enemy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today declares that our People's Army is invincible revolutionary armed forces capable of defeating any formidable enemy.

To have the ever-victorious revolutionary armed forces capable of defeating any formidable enemy is a high pride of our party and people and a great strength for firmly defending our-style socialism, the by-lined article says, and continues:

Our People's Army was founded and has been strengthened and developed constantly and covered a road of victory and glory because it holds the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem.

It routed the Japanese imperialist Kwangtung army one million strong in the blizzard of Mt. Paektu and defeated the forces of the U.S. imperialists and their 15 satellite states under the rain of shells in the Fatherland Liberation War.

A new heyday has been brought in the strengthening and development of our army with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, a genius of military affairs who is possessed of literary and military accomplishments and is loyal and filial, acclaimed as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The ever-victorious might of our People's Army lies in its firm faith and will to defend the party and the leader with death and in its political and ideological superiority.

Our army is singleheartedly united on the basis of boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

The invincible might of our People's Army also lies in that it has been firmly prepared in military technique. Today it is displaying its grand sight as a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces equipped with modern means of attack and defence and it is armed with weapons of latest types.

It is not only our People's Army that is firmly prepared as invincible revolutionary armed forces. The entire people are also armed and the whole country has been fortified.

We can proudly declare that we are sure to smash any aggressor and win as long as we have respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, and the invincible People's Army firmly prepared politically and ideologically and in military technique.

Military Sources Report U.S., South Air Exercises

SK1903052993 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets staged an air war exercise against the North on March 17, according to military sources.

The frantic war game held in the skies above Chungju, Tanyang and Yoju involved various kinds of fighter-bombers, pursuit planes, pursuit-assault planes, observation planes, electronic jamming planes and reconnaissance planes, some 450 all told.

In separate action on the same day, Guam-based refuelling tankers air-refuelled scores of fighter planes participating in an air war exercise, making a shuttle flight between Kwangju and Kyokyolbi islands.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets frantically staged a ground attack operation and gun-firing exercise in areas adjacent to the demilitarized zone along the Military Demarcation Line.

On March 17, units under the 1st corps of the U.S. imperialist aggression army and puppet army troops frenziedly staged an attack operational exercise against the North in an atmosphere of a real war under cover of the intensive bombardment by flying groups and artillery.

That day, scores of planes which took off from the extra-large aircraft carrier independence ran amok in an exercise to support an attack operation of ground units of the U.S. imperialist aggression army and the puppet army. And groups of a hundred and several dozen combatant ships massed in the east and west seas of Korea kicked up a war fever, frantically staging a naval offensive operation designed to invade the North and a war game to control the sea.

Kim Chong-il Sends Replies To Foreign Leaders

SK1903044793 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0428 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to heads of state of different countries in reply to their messages of greetings on his birthday.

He sent replies to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; Muhammad Hosni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Lansana Conte, president and head of state of the Republic of Guinea; Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front; Valentine Esegragbo Melvin Strasser, head of state and chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council of the Republic of Sierra Leone; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; and Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Expressing the belief that friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and those countries would grow stronger and

develop, Comrade Kim Chong-il wished them success in their work for the prosperity of their countries.

Pakistani Prime Minister Sends Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK1903104293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The gift was handed to an official concerned by the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistani Embassy in Pyongyang.

Yugoslav Party Leader Comments on Kim Chong-il Work

SK1803123193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 18 (KCNA)—Branko Kitanovic, general secretary of the New Yugoslav Communist Movement, said the classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building" is a highly important work indicating the road ahead of the international communist movement and the working-class movement at present.

Noting that he studied the work during his stay in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he said:

"In the work, Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a scientific analysis of the cause of the collapse of socialist government parties and the socialist system in some countries and of the historical lessons from it and gave overall answers to the basic principles of building revolutionary parties and all the theoretical and practical problems arising in strengthening the internationalist unity and solidarity.

"He said that the socialist idea is a universal idea of humanity which reflects the social nature of human beings and it is an idea not only for class emancipation but also for national and human liberation which reflects the desire for independence of all nations and the whole of humanity, and it is the trend of the historical development for mankind to advance toward socialism.

"This definition given by Comrade Kim Chong-il is proven further by the positive developments in the countries where socialism has suffered a setback, including the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

"Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il not only perfected the theory of building socialism but also made a distinguished contribution to putting it into practice.

"His idea will light the road ahead of the Korean people and the progressive mankind of the world, and his leadership exploits will shine forever".

Factories Rally To Fulfil Kim Chong-il Order

SK1903045993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—Mass rallies were held at the Pyongyang textile combine, the August 8 ore mine, the May 8 lumbering machine factory and on the Ihyon cooperative farm in Sadong district, Pyongyang, to fulfil the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The speakers at the rallies said the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must clearly realise that they could not trample upon an inch of land and a blade of grass of the DPRK with impunity, stressing: If the enemies unleash another war, we will fight a decisive battle and annihilate them to the last man.

Noting that the Korean people do not want war but they would not beg the aggressors for peace, they said they would become rifles and bombs in the sacred struggle to defend the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

Messages of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander, were adopted at the rallies.

Daily Warns Against 'Wind of Temptation'

SK1803122593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0013 GMT 15 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 15 March special article: "Socialism Is Our People's Faith and Life"]

[Text] Socialism is to win victory and to advance through struggle against the imperialists and reactionaries.

Today the imperialists intensified antirevolutionary maneuvers against our socialism more than ever before. The era of imperialists deceiving revolutionary people with the wind of temptation has gone.

Taking off the mask of appeasement and deception, the imperialists are undisguisedly perpetrating maneuvers to crush and suffocate the revolutionary people of the world.

We are living in an era when a fierce struggle to defend and protect socialism in a state of acute confrontation with imperialists is being waged.

Just as our people advanced in the past by upholding the banner of socialism without the slightest degree of wavering in any wind of temptation, today we are filled with firm faith and determination to defend, protect and glorify socialism of our own style by resolutely smashing all challenges of the imperialists.

Socialism was born from winning victories through fierce struggle against the imperialists. The history of advancing socialism is the history of the principle struggle against various appeasement and undisguised aggressive maneuvers of the imperialists and the enemies of the revolution.

The imperialists' maneuvers to obliterate socialism are endlessly cunning and vicious. With an olive tree branch in one hand and nuclear weapons in the other, the imperialists are maneuvering to block the people's advance toward socialism.

Today, with the frustration of some socialist countries and temporary vicissitudes in the overall socialist movement, the imperialists, who persistently maneuvered to destroy the socialist countries from within, have launched an undisguised offensive to eradicate socialism.

If the imperialists intensify ideological and cultural infiltration, we should resolutely check it with revolutionary principle, and if they launch full-scale challenge and aggression, we should smash them before their every step. This is the way to defend socialism and see to its accomplishment.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, pointed out: Our people have firm conviction in the justness and future of the socialist cause, which they themselves chose and pioneered on their own strength. Our people are filled with a revolutionary determination to advance along the road of socialism to the end.

Socialism is the ideal which our people chose by ourselves and is an endlessly precious life which our people safeguarded by dedicating our lives.

Under the condition in which we are directly confronted with the imperialists, our people victoriously advanced socialism without the slightest degree of deviation for scores of years.

Our people are dignified revolutionary people who crushed the antirevolutionary maneuvers of imperialists who attempt to destroy socialism through the wind of temptation.

The wind of temptation kicked off in recent years by the imperialists and revisionists is unprecedented in its atrocious and cunning nature and in its impact.

The wind of temptation kicked off by the imperialists, social democrats [sahoe minjujuijadul], and revisionists, is a corrupt and frivolous trend which makes people pursue only individual's comfort and enjoyment. It is a wind for liberalization intended to introduce a capitalist political method under a pretext of openness and democracy and to tear socialism to pieces. It is an antirevolutionary wind intended to make people give up the anti-imperialist struggle under a pretext of a new way of thinking and to ideologically disarm people. It is, in essence, a treachery against socialism and fantasy of and surrender to capitalism.

In the aftermath of the wind of temptation, a great number of countries that had built socialism over scores of years, collapsed, parties of the working class were degenerated and people were again reduced to the miserable situation of slaves, being caught in a capitalist trap.

The realities clearly illustrated that the wind of temptation, which destroyed military and economically powerful socialist countries without firing a single bullet, is very harmful and poisonous to the people carrying out the revolution.

Although the wind of temptation kicked off by the imperialists swept the entire world, it absolutely could not work with our people. Our people led by the great leader and great party will not give up their way and but will choose the day, no matter what wind may blow.

When other people were talking about openness and democracy, our people strengthened the leadership of the party and consolidated the single-hearted unity of the whole society. When they traveled along the road of market economy and reform, our people thoroughly implemented the line on building a self-reliant economy by adhering to the Taean work system.

When other people introduced corrupt bourgeois ideas and publications, we firmly armed ourselves with the chuche idea and brought revolutionary culture and our own life-style into full bloom.

We have not fantasized about capitalism nor did we waver in the antirevolutionary wind the imperialists started. This is because our people firmly believed that everything we accomplished by implementing the party's line and policy is just and that as long as we continue this advance there is no need for us to change anything nor is there a need to introduce the capitalist line and life-style.

Our people are tenaciously defending, protecting, and glorifying socialism of our own style by comprehensively smashing the undisguised aggressive maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries which have been aggravated with each passing day.

The imperialists completely took down signboards that looked good on the outside which they used to hold high.

Those who advocate social democracy while ridiculing the people behind honeyed words do not conceal that they advance by making a society the same as the capitalist countries. Because they were unable to make our people give in to the wind of temptation, the U.S. imperialists and reactionaries are frantically running amok with antisocialist and antirepublic commotions, thus revealing their true colors.

Today the dark clouds of undisguised aggression and war, instead of the wind of temptation, are pouring in our country. Because of the enemy's maneuvers, socialism of our own style is facing more serious challenges than ever before.

Our people, who are in an acute confrontation with the imperialists and reactionaries, are demonstrating a firm and invincible spirit and will not to give in, even if we might be broken [kkokida].

Today the imperialists are frantically running amok to suffocate our republic in all political, economic, and cultural areas. However, they can never frighten our people.

Our people, who always expelled the imperialists' attacks by upholding the leadership of the party and the leader and who have been ever-victorious, know very well what type of enemy the imperialists are and which way will bring us victory.

Struggle is the only genuine way for the survival and victory of socialism. The more obediently one yields to the imperialists, the more frantically they will attempt to conquer one. This is the true color of the imperialists and the intent of a wolf.

If one fights courageously, one can be the master of everything. If one surrenders, one looses everything. This is a precious truth we have learned from experience through a long struggle.

The imperialists are accustomed to acting arrogantly, insolently, and high-handedly. If one retreats one step from the imperialists, one is doomed to retreat two more steps, and one will be finally forced to retreat 100 steps. If one makes a concession on one thing today, one will have to make a concession on everything tomorrow.

Success in a fierce confrontation with the imperialists depends on the people's thoroughgoing faith and without any concession to the basic interest of the imperialists and to the nation's dignity.

Today the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are frenziedly running amok making commotions about nuclear inspections and the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, thus straining the situation to an extreme pitch.

However, our people are filled with confidence and optimism, and the might of single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks is being consolidated and becoming more indomitable with each passing day.

Our people, who have inherited the Paektu revolutionary spirit and who have been tested and seasoned through the struggle against imperialism, are overcoming all difficulties without the slightest flutter. Our people's position of valuing their socialist fatherland and revolutionary gains and resolutely defending them at any cost is firm.

The imperialists are openly conducting antisocialist maneuvers not only in political and military areas but also in the economic area. Our people, however, are boldly overcoming difficulties in the course of their advance even under the prevailing situation in which imperialists are unprecedentedly intensifying economic sanctions against us.

The more complicated the situation becomes, and the heavier the tasks we must shoulder, the more our people trust their party and leader and carry out economic construction with their own strength. This is our people's traditional trait.

Our people are vigorously accelerating socialist construction with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, just as they successfully built socialism on an empty land while smashing the imperialists' challenges in the past.

On the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, the entire party, the entire country, and all of the people are brilliantly implementing the party's grand plans for economic construction by vigorously performing new miracles on all fronts of socialist construction. This clearly shows the stout spirit of our people who are smashing the enemy's counterrevolutionary offensive with a revolutionary offensive.

Today our people are firmly fighting against the imperialists' challenges because they have a firm faith in socialism. Socialism is our people's lives. Our socialism was not introduced by someone else, nor is it an imitation. Our people chose it themselves and built it with their own strength in conformity with their own demand.

Our socialism, which embodies the chuche idea, is a superior socialism. It guarantees that all the people can live the most valuable and happiest lives in all areas—political, economic, and cultural—as genuine masters of the state and society.

An exploited society cannot even think about the dignity and happiness our people enjoy. This can be guaranteed only by socialism of our own style. Our socialism guarantees the people independent and creative lives under the consideration of the party and the state, and it advances true life and happiness. Because it is deeply rooted in our people's lives, our socialism cannot be separated from our destinies.

Our people have learned by experience that their happiness of today and their hope for tomorrow is unthinkable without socialism. This faith has been hardening more firmly as they watch the changing world situation in which socialism has collapsed and capitalism has been rehabilitated in many countries.

Because all of the people have the firm faith that one will achieve victory when one keeps socialism, but one will die when one abandons it, nothing can damage our socialism, and its ultimate victory is certain.

As they did when the wind of temptation blew in the past, our people are engaged in an invincible struggle, with a firm faith in socialism, as we face overall confrontation with imperialists. No force can block our people's advance.

The revolution's situation is severe and complicated, but the prospect of the revolution is optimistic, and our cause is invincible. Our people are strong enough to smash challenges by imperialism and to defend and glorify socialism.

This is a different time from when we fought against the Japanese imperialists with nothing and different from the time of the Fatherland Liberation War when the young People's Army fought against the U.S. imperialists' aggression.

Today, we have the tested leadership of the great party and the leader, and the people are in single-hearted unity around the party. We also have the invincible People's Armed Forces that are capable of defending our socialist gains by smashing any strong enemy.

Any military threat, ideological and cultural infiltration, or economic sanction by the imperialists can neither surprise our people nor block our advance.

We have a great ideology and an iron faith to follow the leader [yongdoja]. In nature, the confrontation with the imperialists is the confrontation of ideology and faith. As long as we have a great ideology, and as long as the people who are fighting are firmly armed with the great ideology, socialism will be victorious.

The chuche idea is the great banner of the ever-victorious socialism of our own style. Our socialism is following up victory after victory despite the vicious maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries because it is based on the chuche idea and is guided by the chuche idea. As socialism is the life of our people, so is the chuche idea the life of the socialism of our own style.

Our people are vigorously accelerating the three revolutions, ideological, technological, and cultural, invariably adhering to the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea which they upheld during the pioneering period of our revolution. It is our people's invariable will to firmly maintain our party's revolutionary principles and line based on the chuche idea and solve all the problems in carrying out the socialist cause independently and in our own way.

Our people are firmly determined to advance to the end along the road of socialism which they chose themselves based thoroughly on their party's ideology and policy rather than turning to others for help under any circumstances. All of the people thoroughly implement the chuche idea and the party's line and policy—the embodiment of it—making them their faith. This is the source of the invincible might of the socialism of our own style and its bright future.

The wholehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks with the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] in the center is a mighty weapon for the victorious advance and completion of the cause of the socialism of our own style. The socialist cause is victoriously advanced and will be completed when the popular masses are firmly united around the leader [yongdoja] and uphold his leadership.

The leader [suryong], the party, and the masses share the same destiny, casting their lots with one another in life, death, and fate. In carrying out the chuche socialist cause, no weapon is more powerful than the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses. The ever-victorious road of the chuche socialist cause lies in strengthening unity.

The wholehearted unity of our party and the revolutionary ranks of today are unified based on one core and one ideology, the wholehearted unity which is inherited generation after generation. The might of our unity lies in the fact that all of the people are firmly united around the party and the leader in ideology, volition, morality, and fidelity.

As the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs struggled while upholding the great leader as the core of unity and leadership, so are the entire party membership and all the people faithfully upholding the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, firmly uniting around him. This is the very guarantee that enables us to resolutely adhere to and complete the chuche socialist cause in any difficult and complicated environment and to brilliantly realize the historical cause of fatherland reunification.

Our people uphold the experienced and tested great leader [yongdoja], who always leads the socialist cause to victory. In the revolutionary struggle and construction work, the decisive factor of bringing forth victory is upholding a great leader [yongdoja]. The leader determines the fate of the revolution and the fate of socialism. The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great leader [widaehan yongdoja] with extraordinary wisdom and tested leadership, and he leads the socialist cause of our times to victory. He is the iron-willed brilliant commander who pushes our way at our head through the stern tempest of the revolution with indomitable faith and unequalled courage.

Today, our people are waging a daring struggle with great faith and redoubled courage because they absolutely believe that as long as they follow the dear comrade leader, there will be no obstacle they cannot overcome and no fortress they cannot occupy. Seen in the song "There Will Be No Fatherland Without You," which our party members and working people enjoy singing, is inexhaustible trust and faith in the great leader. As strongly demonstrated at the Eighth Congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, it is the death-defying determination and will of our youth and people to become bullets and gun shells and Yi Su-pok for protecting and defending the dear leader General Kim Chong-il. Even if the world undergoes upheavals 10 or 100 times, our people's faith and will to believe firmly in the great leader and absolutely protect and defend him will be unchangeable forever, and we will shout with joy "Long live socialism!"

Socialism is the ideal of mankind, and socialism will triumph because it is the law of historical development. No matter how hard the imperialists and the reactionaries may try to obliterate socialism, they cannot reverse the trend of history. As they crushed the wind of temptation with the hot wind of chuche in the past, our people will resolutely crush the imperialists' threats, blackmail, and maneuvers for aggression and steadfastly maintain the dignity and honor of the socialism of our own style. Socialism is our people's banner of faith and their banner of victory forever.

KCNA Reviews 19 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK1903054793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, upon his reelection as president of the council of state of the Republic of Cuba.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is news that the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received gifts from Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Printed in papers is an autographic reply of Comrade Kim Chong-il to a letter from deputy principal of the Pyongyang Kaeson Senior Middle School Yi Hyon-ok, the daughter of Comrade Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who served a long term in South Korean prison for refusing to be converted, and her letter.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a message of thanks to the medical workers and three-revolution team members of the Kumgang County people's hospital in Kangwon Province who had rendered good medical services to people's army soldiers and their families.

Seen in the daily are repercussions of Comrade Kim Chong-il's historical work "On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building" upon the general secretary of the new Yugoslav communist movement.

The daily reports that special bulletin issues were published in different countries on the occasion of the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il. Given in the daily is an account of a symposium of Indian journalists on the establishment of independence in mass media activities held in New Delhi.

Foreign media reported the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army proclaiming a state of semi-war to the whole country, the entire people and the whole army, Japan-resident Koreans voiced full support to it, mass rallies to fulfil this order continued to be held at industrial establishments and cooperative farms of Korea, and working people in different sectors of the national economy are effecting a great upswing in production and construction while keeping themselves in full readiness for combat mobilisation, says the daily.

Comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will and the hero of reunification, is returning to the embrace of the socialist fatherland from South Korea today. In this connection, the press carries editorials warmly welcoming Yi In-mo and his picture.

Papers also carry special write-ups, with articles and poems, under the titles "the motherland warmly hugs", "the son of the motherland returns," "a phoenix overcomes all difficulties," "a 40 year long course traversed by a phoenix" and "faith cannot be bound in chain".

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article captioned "Our People's Army Is Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces Capable of Defeating Any Formidable Enemy".

The daily carries gists of speeches made at the extraordinary meeting of the executive committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea.

Printed in papers is an appeal of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland to the South Korean people, calling upon them to turn out in the struggle to smash the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing a "computerized war exercise" staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets as part of the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises and a commentary condemning the South Korean chief executive who showed up at fields of the "Team Spirit" and incited "showdown of strength" between the North and the South and a war. An article headlined "Our People Cannot Be Frightened With Military Threat" is seen in the daily.

Foreign publications issued articles supporting the DPRK government statement declaring the withdrawal from the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty [NPT], the press reports.

"Abuses of Socialism Are Preposterous Sophism" is the title of a MINJU CHOSON article.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary hits out at some official figures and media of Japan for speaking ill of the DPRK's legitimate step of withdrawing from the NPT.

According to the press, a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry gave an answer to a question of a reporter over the preposterous argument of the Japanese delegate at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights about the "comfort women for the army," forcible drafting and other problems.

Given in the press are accounts of an extraordinary enlarged meeting of the italian committee for supporting Korea's reunification and of the inauguration of the Kavre, Nepal, committee for supporting Korea's reunification.

An inaugural meeting of the 4th National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba was held and Abdou Diouf was reelected president of Senegal, reports the press.

South Korea

Further Reaction to DPRK NPT Withdrawal

IAEA Resolution on Withdrawal

SK1903010893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Vienna, March 19 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors unanimously adopted a resolution expressing grave concern over North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in a special meeting Thursday. The resolution urged Pyongyang to accept the IAEA's special inspections of its nuclear facilities, pointing out that North Korea remains under obligations as a signatory of the NPT.

In the resolution, the board told IAEA Director-general Hans Blix to continue all possible contact with North Korea for the realization of special inspections. The director-general is to report the results of his effort back to the Board of Governors at its meeting March 31.

The resolution, tabled by 22 board members including South Korea, the United States, and Japan, confirmed the board's full support for any measure or action the IAEA and its director-general may take for inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities. North Korea, which attended the board meeting as a concerned party, reiterated its position that it will never accept special inspections under any circumstances.

The 22 nations that drafted the resolution had included a clause that the IAEA was to report to the United Nations secretary-general on the progress of special inspections since the IAEA issued an appeal for them on Feb. 25. They decided to scrap the clause at the last moment when China opposed it. In this connection, the South Korean representative told reporters that the board could have adopted the resolution with that clause since it could have easily obtained two-thirds approval, but it gave in to the Chinese demand in order to pass the resolution unanimously.

Notwithstanding the resolution, the IAEA could still report the results of its efforts to inspect North Korean nuclear facilities to the United Nations, the South Korean representative said. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said Thursday that three major signatories of the NPT—the United States, Britain, and Russia—held consultations here Tuesday and Wednesday and are expected to issue a statement to North Korea.

Robert Carlucci, U.S. undersecretary of state for International Security Affairs, said representatives from the three countries had also consulted with Blix. There was a possibility that all 154 signatories of the NPT would issue a joint statement, or regional blocs like the European Community could issue separate statements, on North Korea's decision to bolt the NPT, the sources said.

Ministry: IAEA May Compromise

SK1903032793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to offer North Korea one last compromise before its March 31 deadline on nuclear inspection, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday. "The IAEA Board of Governors gave director-general Hans Blix the authority to take all appropriate measures to get North Korea to comply with inspection demands," an official said. "Blix's past demands carried little weight, but the IAEA resolution gave him the firm backing he needs to make gestures toward North Korea. "Now that Team Spirit is over, the IAEA believes North Korea may be more open to compromise gestures," he said.

The IAEA, in a special interim meeting in Vienna, Thursday adopted a four-point resolution by consensus. The resolution recalls the Feb. 25 resolution demanding access to two North Korean nuclear sites believed to hide nuclear materials and registers concerns over implications following Pyongyang's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

Rebutting North Korea's claim that the IAEA is a mouthpiece of select nations such as the United States, the 35-nation board expressed its "full confidence in the director-general and the secretariat... (and its) full support for the actions they have taken... in an impartial and an objective manner." Pledging to continue efforts until the march 31 deadline, the board requested Blix to "continue his efforts and dialogue, taking all the appropriate contacts."

"This is the first official response from an international organization since North Korea's announcement of departure from the NPT," the ministry official said. "We believe conditions have changed since North Korea's announcement, such as conclusion of Team Spirit," he said. "We will provide undivided support for the IAEA in its gestures before the deadline." Team Spirit, the annual Korea-U.S. joint military maneuver, ended on Thursday.

The IAEA resolution, however, does not include a clause asking the director-general to report the meeting results and resolution to the U.N. Security Council as Seoul initially had hoped. The move was blocked by China and countries who have pacts with the IAEA for nuclear inspections but are not members with NPT.

"The prevailing opinion was that the IAEA should take all possible actions before taking it to the Security Council," he said. "North Korea's nuclear issue will not pass over to the U.N. Security Council before March 31." The five permanent Security Council members met on March 12 and 17 but decided to wait for the IAEA's Thursday meeting. "The council will be able to deal with both North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT and its

non-compliance with IAEA inspections only when North Korea does not accept the inspections by the March 31 deadline," he said.

DPRK Envoy: U.S. 'Key' To Solution

SK1903072693 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 19 Mar 93 p 3

[Report on telephone interview with Ho Chong, North Korean deputy UN ambassador, by correspondent Chong Yon-chu in Washington on 17 March]

[Text] [Correspondent's note] In the wake of the North Korean withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], attention is focused on how North Korea views present developments and how it assesses the possibility of resolving the issue through negotiations.

[Chong Yon-chu] It seems to be the people's general view that the suspicion of North Korean nuclear development has increased in the wake of North Korea's announcement of its withdrawal from the NPT.

[Ho Chong] Why do you only take issue with suspicion surrounding our nuclear problem? Why do you not take issue with our suspicion of the nuclear threat posed by U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea? This clearly shows that only the logic of the strong rules. We simply had to exercise our right to sovereignty, which, to us, is as important as our life. The NPT safeguards only the interests of the strong countries, applying double standards and discipline on weak countries.

[Chong] U.S. President Clinton and the U.S. State Department demand in statements that North Korea revoke its decision to withdraw from the NPT. Do you have any intention to reconsider your withdrawal?

[Ho] If the U.S. nuclear threat to us disappears and if the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] restores impartiality, we can reconsider the withdrawal at any time.

[Chong] Could you be more specific?

[Ho] To eliminate the U.S. nuclear threat, the Team Spirit exercise designed as a nuclear war rehearsal should be suspended for good; suspected U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea should all be completely open to the public [wanjon konggae haeya hamyo]; and the United States should guarantee that it will not wage a nuclear attack on us. For the IAEA to guarantee its impartiality, the IAEA should first abide thoroughly by the fundamental spirit of the NPT. This means that the nuclear powers should observe their obligations to transfer nuclear weapons technology well and refrain from posing nuclear threats to non-nuclear states.

[Chong] Can't you ease heightening tension on the Korean peninsula and bring forth a turning point into a new road by allowing inspections of the two facilities [sisol] in question in Yongbyon?

[Ho] The special inspections infringe upon our sovereignty and encroach upon the supreme interests of our country. We can never tolerate this.

[Chong] Then it is very likely that the issue will be referred to the UN Security Council in light of the prevailing situation.

[Ho] It would be a gross miscalculation to attempt to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula by means of blockade or sanctions. Such high-handed measures will only lead us to tougher self-defensive measures, as we repeatedly made clear. We believe that the issue should be resolved through negotiations rather than pressure.

[Chong] What do you specifically mean by tougher self-defensive measures?

[Ho] I cannot disclose this at this stage. We have already completed all the necessary preparations—even for the military action which the United States is aiming at—as the last of a series of actions.

[Chong] You said that the issue should be resolved through negotiations. With whom should the negotiations be made and what sort of negotiations do you have in mind?

[Ho] It is the United States that had the IAEA demand special inspections, and it is also the United States that are engaged in all sorts of maneuvers to stifle North Korea. Therefore, the key to resolving the issue is the attitude of the United States. Hence, the United States should be party to the negotiations.

[Chong] The Team Spirit exercise is about to end. Will it not be possible to resolve the issue through independent efforts between the North and the South?

[Ho] The South is much to blame. Some U.S. figures said that the United States had to conduct the Team Spirit exercise this year because the Seoul government expressed much need for it. In Vienna, for instance, the South side has engaged in such vicious maneuvers against the North as are inconceivable for fellow countrymen. The civilian government which is said to have come in power is raving about economic sanctions. This gives us the impression that the South side is not trying to reconcile and carry on dialogue with us as compatriots but is taking the initiative for further national division by trying to read Washington's mind.

Official: U.S.-DPRK Talks Unknown

SK1903003693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Mar 93 p 2

[By staff correspondent Chae Hui-muk]

[Text] From its outset, the Kim Yong-sam administration has faced a dilemma in handling policies on North Korea due to Pyongyang's abrupt decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The new

administration had even sought a summit with North Korea to improve bilateral relations on the basis of the principle that issues involving the Korean peninsula should be solved by the two parties concerned, not third parties. As initial action to soften its stance toward Pyongyang, the government decided to allow Yi In-mo, a former North Korean guerrilla, to visit Pyongyang today irrespective of Pyongyang's announcement to withdraw from the NPT. But Pyongyang's action has baffled Seoul and Washington.

Ironically, Seoul and Washington are eager to contact Pyongyang to sound out the latter's intentions after its walk-out from the NPT although they had insisted on no contacts before the nuclear issue was solved. Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu also told the National Assembly's foreign affairs and unification committee that his government would not reject high-level dialogue between the United States and North Korea, somewhat of a retreat from past Seoul positions apparently to defuse the high tensions that has developed on the Korean peninsula. Washington has sought contacts with Pyongyang in Beijing since the North Korea's announcement on March 12 and finally they were realized Wednesday though the contents of their discussion remain undisclosed.

A Foreign Ministry official said Washington has pledged to inform Seoul of meetings before and after contacts. But the recent move of the United States has displeased the Seoul government. Washington did not have full consultations with Seoul as promised. A ministry official said that the government was not informed of the Washington-Pyongyang contacts Wednesday. The results were also conveyed to Seoul after Washington announced them in the United States. Observers suspect that Washington and Pyongyang have been working out some kinds of measure without the participation of Seoul. At present, North Korea appears to be gaining the goal for which it withdrew.

"North Korea is expected to earn concessions from Washington such as the scrapping of the joint Seoul-Washington military exercise, Team Spirit, and the somewhat softened position of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," a ministry official said. Seoul's attitude toward the IAEA has changed a little. The government wants the IAEA to bring the issue to the United Nations Security Council apparently for more effective pressure. The government had not wanted the nuclear issue to be brought to the Security Council. An observer said that the government should not be dragged around by Pyongyang, the United States or world bodies on the nuclear issue. The Kim Yong-sam administration's Achilles heel seems to be its policies to improve the inter-Korean issue independently as a non-military government.

PRC Opposes UNSC Referral

SK1903070093 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Mar 93 p 2

[By correspondent Choe Maeng-ho in Vienna]

[Text] Chen Shiqiu, PRC ambassador to Vienna in charge of international organizations, revealed on 18 March: "The PRC is opposed to North Korea's nuclear issue being referred to the UN."

Ambassador Chen rejected a clause regarding notification to the UN in a draft resolution jointly proposed by the 22 Board of Governors member countries on 18 March and had it passed after the deletion of that clause. He then said: "The PRC's basic position is that this issue should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on the basis of the nuclear safeguards agreement." He added: "This position will remain unchanged even at the next special Board of Governors meeting."

An IAEA official predicted: "In the event that North Korea is labeled as 'a country which failed to implement the agreement' at the 31 March special Board of Governors meeting and in the case that North Korea's nuclear issue is inevitably referred to the UN, chances are very high that the PRC will abstain from voting rather than casting a nay vote."

Minister: North Bombs Not Ready

SK1903101993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung said that it is certain that North Korea has obtained the plutonium necessary to produce nuclear weapons, but their technological level is not advanced enough to enable them to do so. In a meeting with directors of science departments of the press in Seoul, Minister Kim Si-chung said we believe that North Korea has obtained about five kilograms of plutonium but that its purity is less than 90 percent. This is not enough to produce nuclear weapons, and it will be about three more years before North Korea is able to produce them.

Repatriation of Yi In-mo

Farewell Ceremony

SK1803133093 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 18 Mar 93 p 22

[By correspondent Yi Ki-chol from Pusan]

[Text] A farewell party for Mr. Yi In-mo was held at 1930 [1030 GMT] on 16 March at the Pusan National University Hospital for about one hour with 100 members of dissident organizations in the Pusan area.

Mr. Yi did not take part in the farewell ceremony because Dr. Pak Sun-kyu, his chief physician and

director of the internal medicine department, said that his condition could worsen if he took part.

During the ceremony, Pae Ta-chi, joint chairman of the Pusan League, said that the decision to repatriate Mr. Yi In-mo is a good start for the civilian government. He also said: "I hope that reunification can be achieved as soon as possible so that I can see a healthy Mr. Yi In-mo in the North."

Returns to DPRK

SK1903025193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Panmunjom, March 19 (YONHAP)—Yi In-mo, 76, returned to North Korea at Friday morning after 42 years and seven months in the South, first as a North Korean guerrilla, then as a prisoner and finally as an unconverted communist. A feeble old man suffering from pneumonia, he was in a wheelchair when a North Korean doctor checked him in the presence of Kim Sang-won and his wife, who had taken care of Yi since he was released from prison in 1987. Yi was reptriated in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at the Truce Village of Panmunjom. North Korean officials wheeled him to the northern side of the room, across the Military Demarcation Line, and he was home. Yi's wife, Kim Sun-im, 66, and his daughter, Hyon-ok, 44, met him on the other side of the border. Yi arrived by helicopter at 10:20 from Pusan, where he had been receiving treatment for his pneumonia in Pusan University Hospital.

YONHAP Details Return

SK1903091493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Panmunjom, March 19 (YONHAP)—There was a mood of excitement on the North Korean side of the Panmunjom truce village on Friday morning. Two files of 500 women wearing traditional dresses and clasping artificial flowers lined the path to Panmungak to welcome home the "Korean war hero" Yi In-mo. They sang "Korea is one" and "Our desire is unification" to the music of a 22-piece band as they made a path through the neutral area where North and South Koreans can mingle.

"I'm so glad to meet Comrade Yi," a North Korean woman who identified herself as Pak Kyong-ae, 43, of the Kaesong textile mill told a South Korean reporter. "I don't know how to put into words how much we all cherished the hope of meeting him," Pak's friend said. Placards were everywhere, with typical ones reading: "We enthusiastically welcome Comrade Yi In-mo's return to the bosom of the great leader" and "A hearty welcome to unification hero Yi In-mo."

—When Yi was lifted from a South Korean Red Cross ambulance and placed in a wheelchair in front of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) building just after 11, silence fell over Panmunjom. The band stopped playing, and the 500 North Korean women stopped singing and stared openly at his every movement. Asked about Yi's illness, a North Korean medical team member said, "I think he is in critical condition. He needs a thorough checkup." As Yi was about to enter a North Korean ambulance on the other side of the NNSC building, a North Korean boy and girl presented him with flowers. "You are sincerely welcome to the fatherland of dearest father marshal Kim Il-song," the children declared.

—Inside the NNSC conference room at 11:14, Yi's 44-year-old daughter and his grandsons were so emotional at seeing him they could utter no more than "father..." and "grandpa...," so they just stood there, shaking his hands and feeling his face in tears and joy. Yi's wife, Kim Sun-im, 66, weeping profusely, said, "Thank you for having returned alive." Yi did not say one word the whole time, but his face reddened as if with deep emotion.

A North Korean official led Yi and his family out of the building at 11:20 to take them to Pyongyang. Kim Sang-won, who took care of him over the years, said, "I'm glad he has returned to his family, but I'm going to miss him a lot."

South and North Korean medical teams discussed Yi's condition for 25 minutes from 10:30 in the NNSC building. Dr. Pak Sun-kyu and Dr. So Sang-yol of South Korea gave Dr. O In-hwan and Dr. Ho Ung-chol Yi's medical records and X-rays. The South Korean doctors explained Yi's treatment at Pusan National University Hospital from Feb. 12 to that time and suggested future treatment at the request of the North Koreans. "I think he's in critical condition," O said after the meeting. Asked if Yi would get well, his new doctor said, "I can't tell."

Editorial: Yi 'Visit' 'Positive'

SK1803023793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Accord on Yi's Repatriation"]

[Text] The inter-Korean agreement on the repatriation of North Korean guerrilla fighter Yi In-mo tomorrow is a positive development amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula in the wake of the North Korean withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The government decision to send the aged, ailing communist was proper, because it was based on purely humanitarian considerations, as he wished to meet his wife and a daughter residing in Pyongyang. The government step is unprecedented and extraordinary in that the ex-prisoner has refused to renounce his communist belief to the last.

The 76-year-old Yi, who has been under medical care at a hospital in Pusan for the treatment of pneumonia, was a self-styled war correspondent during the Korean War. He was captured while engaged in guerrilla activities and

served seven years in jail, after which he was imprisoned again on charges of having spied for the North for years.

The Pyongyang regime had long demanded that he be released and sent to the North apparently for the value his return to the North will have in its ideological propaganda. Seoul's recent counter-proposal was that Pyongyang return a hijacked KAL passenger airplane and its crew and abducted South Korean fishermen, in exchange.

The Seoul government also wanted to use Yi's repatriation to facilitate the hometown exchange visit program between dispersed families in the South and North. Yet, the latest government decision to send Yi is unconditional, giving Pyongyang no reason to reject it.

The government, meanwhile, had to follow the legal steps including Yi's application for a "visit" to see his family members in North Korea and the approval of it by the Board of National unification. Though Yi is legally a South Korean citizen, he will be able to stay in the North as long as he wants, as no date of his return to the South was specified in his application. His planned visit via the truce village of Panmunjom is expected to set another precedent for facilitating inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation in the future.

At this stage, the projected return to the North is unfortunately not likely to have any positive impact on the strained inter-Korean relationship triggered by Pyongyang's pullout of the NPT. But it could serve the purpose of expediting humanitarian projects including the inter-Korean family reunion program, once the nuclear impasse is settled, hopefully after the ongoing Korea-U.S. joint Team Spirit exercise.

Business Groups Supply Oil, Food To North

SK1803145193 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean 25 Mar 93 pp 6-8

[Article by correspondent Nam Yu-chol: "ROK Business Groups Secretly Supplied Strategic Materials to North Korea"]

[Text] Large ROK business groups secretly supplied oil and provisions to North Korea, which has been suffering because of a shortage.

According to a domestic source well versed in North Korean issues and confirmed by SISA JOURNAL, several ROK business groups supplied oil and provisions to North Korea on an almost regular basis by going through a third country. The government has banned transactions involving oil and provisions—strategic materials—with North Korea. However, it is very difficult to chase down indirect transactions carried out overseas through brokers in a third country. As a result, our government appears to have failed to discover the details of such transactions.

Because North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] created international tension, the United States is expected to make an issue of indirect trade by the ROK business groups.

A U.S. diplomat in Seoul noted that if ROK business groups continue supplying strategic materials to North Korea, the United States cannot help but make an issue of this diplomatically. He stressed that he doubts if the ROK Government has discovered the details of these transactions. He said the United States has refrained from broaching the issue of North-South trade diplomatically out of concern that a misunderstanding that the United States is disturbing the reunification of the Korean peninsula would occur.

No Regulations, But Security Law Can Take Sanctions

A reliable source in Singapore revealed that "the two general trade firms of large ROK business groups supplied oil to North Korea on a regular basis" and noted that this is well known among brokers specializing in Singapore's oil markets. During a telephone interview, he stated that "an ROK business group began to supply the DPRK in the early part of last year and another group in the later part of last year." This source, who is well versed in oil transactions involving North Korea, added that although an exact amount is unknown, the supply to North Korea was obviously conducted through China.

A U.S. diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said that "a large ROK business group supplied rice produced in Indonesia to North Korea on several occasions," and that the report on ROK business groups' supplying oil to North Korea is no surprise to him. He said they learned about the rice transaction last year, and then he refrained from further comment. However, he revealed that the ROK appeared to be shocked by a report on the United States' export of wheat to North Korea in April last year even though an ROK business group was involved in the actual transaction.

In a recent international telephone conversation, a U.S. scholar well versed in North Korean issues revealed that "rice produced in Vietnam was exported to North Korea on several occasions by an ROK business group." He said he confirmed this directly with a "high-level U.S. intelligence official." He added that although the relevant person named in documents on the transaction was not an ROK businessman, an ROK business group actually paid for the transaction.

Meanwhile, an official at the National Unification Board [NUB] pointed out that "if it is true there was a transaction on strategic materials, this is indeed a very serious issue for the nation." However, there are no laws in the ROK that concretely prohibit transactions involving stragegic materials with North Korea. In other words, there is no method stipulated in current domestic law to control indirect trade conducted through brokers in a third country. The law on North-South exchange and cooperation only stipulated a principle stating that North Korea shall be regarded just like other trade partner nations.

A relevant NUB official stressed: In fact, the only law applicable to this case is the National Security Law, but how can we handle this merely from the standpoint of law? Supplying such strategic materials to North Korea without government permission clearly violates government policy.

The United States Has Strict Laws

A U.S. diplomat in Seoul asked: When strategic material like oil is offered to North Korea, where do you think it will be used? He then pointed out that the ROK's laws and regulations on trade with Korea are indeed very lax. As for the United States, its sanctions against North Korea are formulated in a clear, practical law t..at prohibits any form of trade with North Korea. The United States bans its citizens (including permanent residents) and enterprises from participating not only in direct trade with North Korea but also in any other type of transactions including brokerage, arrangement, and support for the trade. This diplomat stressed that "interest gained in any form through trade with North Korea is a very violation of the law."

Those who are in charge of North Korean matters in ROK business groups stated that North Korea "solicited" the supply of oil and provisions last year. A relevant official in a domestic general trade firm said that "oil is the same as a narcotic for North Korea. It promised to do anything if we would supply oil. Oil takes up 90 percent of materials demanded by North Korea." Stressing that his company has never engaged in oil transactions with North Korea, this official said that domestic business groups might have possibly supplied oil to North Korea with a view to securing favorable investment conditions in the event that North-South economic cooperation is launched on full scale. He added that one is able to do so freely if one desires, because the government is unaware of it. He revealed that his company has also constantly received requests from North Korea for oil.

Cash Bribe to North Korea

Large ROK business groups that are engaged in trade with North Korea fiercely competed to open a "channel" to North Korea in a bid to prepare for full-scale investments in the North. A relevant official revealed that although words like "North-South economic exchange" are used, the exchange is actually the same as "our side unconditionally offering materials to North Korea." In addition, in trading with North Korea, ROK business groups gave a considerable amount of "cash bribes" to it on the pretext of a "credit deposit," and competition among these businesses became more fierce. Needless to say, such "invisible North-South economic cooperation" has not been listed in NUB statistics on actual North-South transactions.

Since Russia and China, the main suppliers, suspended oil shipments last year, North Korea has been suffering a shortage so serious that its own political system is threatened. According to a source in Singapore, the oil shortage in North Korea is so serious it cannot operate its army. An expert in Singapore revealed that North Korea secretly operated two oil refineries for military use in addition to the two plants already known to public. He then revealed for the first time the locations of these two oil refineries for military use in North Korea to the SISA JOURNAL. They are in Unsan north of Pyongyang and in Seson near the border in North Hamgyong Province. They are capable of producing 10,00 barrels daily. However, he added that operation of these small plants has been almost suspended for the last year. Viewing this, North Korea is short of oil even for emergencies.

Yon Hyong-muk Reshuffled Because of Oil Crisis

The North Korean military founded and operated two firms called Yonghansan Trade Company and Maebong Trade Company. It appears that through these trade companies, the North Korean military procured oil for the army from ROK business groups. The abrupt reshuffle of Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, on 11 December last year is deeply related to the fact that he was unable to resolve the oil crisis. According to information and materials collected by officials of domestic business groups on North Korean affairs, Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon personally visited Iran last year to discuss the issue of oil supply. However, his visit was reported to be unsuccessful. In 1988 North Korea's oil imports from Iran amounted to 35 percent of its total oil imported from foreign countries. However, since the Iran-Iraq war ended, there was no need for Iran to import weapons from North Korea. Thus, Iran was reported to have refused the supply of oil.

The energy source for almost all of the North Korean industrial facilities is coal, which North Korea can supply at home. However, the military consumes 70 percent of all the oil. Therefore, an "oil crisis" in North Korea means a "military crisis." North Korea has made every effort to acquire oil since last year because oil shortages mean that the "military becomes powerless." The reason the United States, which knows this very well, insisted on conducting the Team Spirit exercise this year, which had been suspended, appears to be closely related to an oil crisis facing North Korea.

If the Team Spirit exercise is conducted in South Korea, North Korea will have no alternative but to conduct mobile exercises in response. It seems that the United States had chosen to conduct military exercises as the most efficient means to pressure North Korea to receive nuclear inspections. A foreign expert said that, considering the possibility of imposing sanctions against North Korea, the United States wants to clearly find out the status of North Korea's oil supply and that it intends to make North Korea use up the oil it has saved for emergencies.

North Korea denounced the Team Spirit exercise, which was resumed this year, more strongly than ever. North

Korea presented the Team Spirit-93 exercise as the most immediate reason for withdrawing from the NPT. In response to the previous the Team Spirit exercises, North Korea conducted military exercises on a scale similar to that of the Team Spirit exercises. However, for this year, North Korea merely issued a state of semi-war and has not made any particular military move.

The "worst-ever oil crisis" facing North Korea has been proven by what North Korea has done since last year. North Korea is probably using its withdrawal from the NPT as the last card in its bid to counteract the [U.S.] scheme to "make the military powerless" by conducting the Team Spirit exercise. This may help one understand why THE NEW YORK TIMES asked the U.S. Government to suspend the Team Spirit exercise for now [as published]. However, our government and North Korea experts at home, who had all along been indifferent to the energy crisis facing North Korea, have failed to analyze North Korea's intention from this perspective.

Philippines Postpones Plan To Normalize DPRK Ties

SK1903111793 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1033 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The Philippines Government announced that it will postpone its plan to normalize relations with North Korea because it withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The Philippines started negotiations to normalize relations with North Korea because it withdrew its support for the Philippine communist rebels during President Corazon Aquino's government and after it sent a high-ranking delegation to Manila last year.

End of Team Spirit 'Field Training' Announced

SK1903025493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—The field training portion of the South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit" was successfully completed Thursday, South Korea and the United States announced Friday. U.S. units and equipment participating in the drill had begun redeployment to their home locations as there were no military rumblings from North Korea after the communist country announced its decision to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Korean defense ministry spokesman Pak Chae-uk said. Such forces and equipment as Marines based on Okinawa and B-1B and F-117A bombers and the aircraft carrier USS Independence had begun returning to their home bases, Pak said.

The redeployment phase will end by mid-April. "This combined and joint exercise provided excellent training opportunities for the deployed units, allowed them to become familiar with combined operations and to ensure the security of South Korea," he said. This year's exercises tried to limit the mobile training, which mobilizes massive forces, and instead conduct simulated training using computers to reduce the inconvenience to civilians, Pak added.

Trade Group: U.S. Likely To Label ROK PFC

SK1903091293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea may be labeled a priority foreign country [PFC] by the U.S. Administration and hit with trade retaliation under section 301 of the U.S. Omnibus Trade Act next month because of criticism of intellectual property rights violations by American companies, the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said Friday. Of the 16 U.S. companies and business associations that made recommendations on PFC designation to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for consideration in its decision April 30, five suggested Korea be placed on the PFC list. Korea was the only country with five negative recommendations, while the others had no more than two, KFTA officials noted.

The American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA), Reebok International Co., International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), American Textile Manufacturers Association, and Nintendo America Co. sought PFC designation and the U.S. Trademark Association recommended Korea be put on the priority watch list. In contrast, Taiwan, India, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, Pakistan and Italy received two recommendations, and China, Singapore, the Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Columbia, Hungary, the European Community and Poland drew one each.

The overwhelming consensus of U.S. industry may put Korea on the PFC list, they said. Reebok and many other American companies are strongly advising Korea be named a PFC, saying the current crackdown on piracy by the Seoul government is a sham to avoid PFC determination, the officials said.

President Kim Address Proposes 'New Economy'

SK1903005493 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

["Special Statement" by ROK President Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae on 19 March—live]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen: I came here today with grim [pijanghan] determination. So far all my efforts have been for the democratization of this country. Now, however, I believe it is a historic mission for me as president to again raise and rebuild our country's economy.

Today our economy is in a difficult situation. Our economy, which once grew by more than 10 percent, hardly grew by 3 percent during the latter part of last year. About 30 medium and small-sized enterprises are going bankrupt each day. No one wants to do difficult and hard work. Our international competitiveness has declined. Economic development is suspended. The world today is going through an era of economic and technological war. It has entered an era of limitless competition.

All nations have assumed the pursuit of economic benefit as their supreme goal. As I pointed out in my presidential inauguration speech, we will be forced to drop out of line unless we effect an upsurge. This is a solemn issue of our national existence.

Our economy is indeed experiencing difficulty, and conditions facing us are grim and stern. Nevertheless, we are not trying to overcome it by coming together. No one has made an effort overcome these difficulties. Some public servants take a defeatist and easy-going attitude. Businessmen lack confidence and only look for help from the government. There are many of those who consider our difficulties someone else's business. There is still a lingering trend that people demand only their share.

My fellow countrymen: I never try to shirk responsibility for economic difficulties and put them onto someone else. However, what is clear is that we must jointly revive our economy. I believe this is precisely our national consensus. I advocate a new economy to revive our economy.

The new economy is different from the one of the past. It is a economy which is based on participation and creation rather than giving order and imposing control. Control which used to bridle business activities would be drastically curtailed. Business activities would be freely conducted. This is precisely the new economy. Fruits would be reaped based on people's labor. Social justice will prevail. This is precisely the new economy. It is the economy under which all people work together and get rewards together.

Reform in the areas of finance, money market, and administration must come first for the new economic construction. Financial reform which would enhance equilibrium and money market reform for practical liberalization are necessary. Administrative reform is important to improve service for the people.

I will put the real name financial transaction system into force without fail. In addition, reform must take place also in the thoughts of those who are the main forces of the economy for the new economic construction. This is because no reform would be successful without self-reform.

In particular, self-reform by government officials is important.

I think three principles—autonomy, consistency and transparency—are necessary for the establishment and execution of economic policies.

Autonomy is intended to turn over decisions of economic operation to civilians from the government as much as possible. Consistency means that the government's economic policy should not vary in any case. Transparency means that with transparency in the course of decision and execution of economic policies, no one will have any suspicion on this course.

Esteemed fellow countrymen: Let us all strive to again lift our national economy which has fallen into a swamp of stagnation. I will devote all of my 5-year term of office to building the new economy. For this, I will formulate the 5-year plan of the new economy and 100-day plan of the new economy and will put them into practice. The 5-year plan of the new economy will be a blue print for the economic policies that I will push head in the next five years.

The programs of the 5-year plan of the new economy are as follows: This year, I will first of all try to recover international competitiveness and vitalize economic activities. It is an urgent task to provide a foundation for the new economy. We should begin anew the reform in the system and reform in consciousness. Next year I will finalize institutional reforms related to economic activities and in 1995, the third year, I will concentrate our main efforts on earnestly pushing ahead with the internationalization of our economy. At the end of 1995, our economy will achieve one-step higher development and will embark on a normal course.

In 1996, the fourth year, we will concentrate our efforts on upgrading the quality of people's living-standard, including housing, environment, transportation, aged persons, and social welfare. In 1997, the third year, I will make utmost efforts to achieve all targets set for the new economy and to finalize them so that the people will appreciate my five years in office as a period that achieved a new leap in our economy.

Fellow countrymen: We have a proverb which says "The beginning is half the task done." I believe that success of the Five Year Plan depends on this year, the first year, and on the first 100 days of this year in particular. This is because our attitude, zeal, and determination to make a new start are important. With this in mind I have set the 100-day plan of the new economy.

There are seven main tasks that we should fulfill in the 100-day plan without fail. The first task is to revitalize economic activities. I will lead the recovery of our manufacturing and export and investment activities. For this I will strengthen government support for investment activities. I will accelerate large-scale public utility investment projects as soon as possible. I will lower public monetary interests again. We will manage currency in a flexible way.

Second, we will take measures to strengthen competitiveness of small and medium enterprises. We will maximize appropriation of funds so that small and medium enterprises can achieve structural reorganization for smooth cooperative relations with large enterprises. We will rectify the system of supporting small and medium enterprises. We will sharply increase government efforts to eliminate various difficulties facing small and medium enterprises.

Third, we will sharply increase investments in science and technology. In particular, we will make efforts for technlogical development in industry. We will eliminate all factors hindering technological development and will increase the effectiveness of technological development research activities.

Fourth, we will lift all administrative restrictions and regulations which have hindered people's economic activities at the earliest possible date. We will immediately enforce all administrative regulations whose implementation do not require revision of laws. For those adminsitrative restrictions and regulations which require revision of laws we will refer them to the National Assembly for law enactment. Various restrictions which have been practiced will be eliminated.

Fifth, we will reorganize the current farm and fishing village development project. We will lead farmers and fishermen to become the main force in carrying out the development project. Farmers and fishermen will directly enjoy benefits from the project.

Sixth, we will stabilize prices of daily necessities for ordinary people. The government will directly manage prices of those consumer goods which are indispensable for ordinary people's living.

Seventh, we will initiate a consciousness reform movement. We will first start the movement among government officials. We should root out bureaucratism and authoritarianism. The economic policy's principles of self-regulation, consistency, and transparency should be implanted in the consciousness of government officials. We will conduct consciousness-raising education so that government officials can be equipped with such principles.

I will see to it that the consciousness reform movement is conducted by civilians, not by the government. I will directly oversee the implementation of these seven tasks. In particular, I will personally check and confirm the course of implementing the tasks of lifting various regulations and restrictions. I will participate in all regular economic ministers meetings. I will personally visit private enterprises and organizations. I will see to it that all tasks do not end in mere slogans.

Respected fellow countrymen, we are now at the starting point to bring forth a leap forward into the new economy. I earnestly ask you, the people. I ask you all to share the pain to overcome the difficulties of our economy. The government will stand at your head in this endeavor. I will first reduce Chongwadae's budget. I will see to it that all the elements of wastefulness—from the various events held in Chongwadae to its dinner table—are done away with thoroughly. The government's financial expenditures will be restrained as best as possible. The ordinary expenditure will be reduced to less than last year's level. We will become a small and productive government.

We will not raise the wages of government officials this year. Nor will we increase their number. I feel very sorry for the government officials, who work hard despite their low wages, and their families. The government cannot set an example without your patriotic devotion. However, I assure you that your wages will be drastically increased during my term of office.

I ask you the people. First, I would like to ask the businessmen and the private business owners not to raise the price of the products and the fees of services for one year starting today. I ask you to please cooperate for the stable employment of workers and please see to it that the work places are communities full of loving care.

I ask those who run the large business groups. The large business groups can only survive when the small- and medium-sized industries survive. Please establish cooperative relations for the vitalization of small- and medium-sized industries. I ask you to please make sure that the payment to them is made within 60 days of the delivery of goods. I will never receive money, including political funds, for any reason whatsoever.

If control is relaxed and procedure is simplified, expenditure outside of economy [kyongje oechogin piyong] can be reduced to a great extent.

Please use this money for developing technology, promoting workers' welfare, and expanding investment. Please specialize your business so it can become a dominant business.

I would like to make a few remarks to the workers. You may rest assured that economic justice will be realized in a steady manner in the future. Those who sacrificed in the past will be compensated. Those who have more will have to make greater concessions. Let us not excessively demand merely our own share. Only when the economy is revived, can our own share be provided. Please show your new shape in which the workers develop together with your enterprises. Please see to it that wages are stabilized this year. The government will bear the responsibility for stabilizing the price of goods.

Please, you, farmers and fishermen, join in sharing the burden. Please seek voluntarily the share you can manage.

At the same time, I ask all fellow countrymen to engage in the sound consumer life in the future. Now is the time for us to carry out a diligent, thrifty and frugal life and to work hard. Now is the time for all of us to toil and moil. Let us revive the economy through the people's awakening and action.

My dear fellow countrymen: The president has the authority to implement extraordinary policies, like freezing wages and freezing commodity prices. There was a time when such policy was enforced. We may need to do so now to revitalize the economy. However, I believe the people will voluntarily participate in sharing the burden. This is the only way to bring success to the New Economy. When all the people launch themselves into sharing the pain, our economy can achieve a new leap forward, bringing precious rewards to all of us. I stress once again, let us all create a second miracle in the ROK economy. For this, let us all make exceptional efforts once again for a New Economy. My dear fellow countrymen, thank you very much.

Government Plans Reshuffle of Board Chairmen

SK1803123393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0925 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The government plans to replace all those board chairmen of public enterprises who are not professionally experienced in the fields of the firms they represent. The government is also studying doing away with the furnishing of such conveniences as special allowances, offices and chauffeur-driven cars to board chairmen. If the plan were actually adopted, it means that board chairmanship of government-invested firms would in the future be made part-time positions.

Of the board chairmen of the public enterprises numbering 23, all but six to seven are expected to be replaced with professional people. In most cases in the past, board chairmen of public companies were appointed out of political considerations without regard to one's experiences. "We are reviewing the plan in a move to accommodate people's criticism of the existing chairmen's system and also to save budget money," an official at the Economic Planning Board said Thursday. The government is expected to effect a sweeping reshuffle of the presidents and board chairmen of public enterprises toward this weekend.

Prime Minister's Office Set for Downsizing

SK1803145793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1236 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The organization of the office of the Prime Minister will be reduced as part of the policy to maintain a "small administration." The government on Thursday decided to abolish the office of the secretary to the prime minister for civil petitions and the office of fifth coordination officer. With their closure, the function of the secretary for civil petitions will be turned over to the office of fourth coordination officer while some of the duties of the fifth coordination officer will be transferred to the office of first coordination officer and the rest to the office of fourth coordination officer.

The closure of the two offices will result in the reduction of manpower by 12 including two assistant-minister-level officials and another two bureau-director-level ones. In addition, a total of 17 officials from other government offices who are now working at the prime minister's office on a temporary basis will be returned to their original offices step by step.

Democratic Party Reshuffles Offices 19 Mar

SK1903091393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0630 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—Democratic Party Secretary General Kim Tok-kyu and spokesman Pak Chi-won were named to retain their jobs while Rep. Kim Pyong-o was made chairman of the party policy committee in a reshuffle on Friday. The Supreme Council of the party appointed non-mainstream Kim to be the chief policymaker in view that a mainstreamer, Kim Tae-sik, was elected floor leader Thursday. Eight more posts will be filled and a party reform committee set up to reduce staffing levels next week.

Democratic Party Vows To Seek Hearing on No's Regime

SK1903041193 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] The opposition Democratic Party [DP] yesterday vowed to seek hearings on irregularities allegedly committed during the five-year rule of former president No Tae-u in the special National Assembly session slated for mid-April. In a party caucus, opposition lawmakers said that the special hearings are needed to get the true picture of the Suso land scam and other financial irregularities and to "liquidate" the past tainted with corruption and decay. DP lawmakers also urged the Kim Yong-sam administration to implement a thorough reform, arguing that there are clear signs Kim is vacillating in pushing his bold reform program these days.

As signs of Kim's lessened will for reform, DP lawmakers cited the delay of the introduction of the real name financial transaction system which is a must to realize economic justice. They also assailed Kim for appointing "immoral" and "corrupt" figures as cabinet ministers and scrapping a plan to form a reformist "New Korea Committee." During the election campaigns last year, Kim promised that he would set up the committee upon his inauguration to push sweeping reform without a hitch.

The lawmakers took issue with Kim's reluctance to set up a corruption prevention committee under direct presidential control as he had promised during the campaign. DP lawmakers claimed that the recent financial statements made by cabinet ministers, presidential secretaries and high-ranking ruling party officials are being taken as a "meaningless show." Opposition lawmakers said that they will revise pertinent laws to prevent false reports of officials' financial status.

Ministry To Allow Firms To Buy Overseas Real Estate

SK1903035693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Mar 93 p 9

[Text] Korean firms will be permitted to buy real estate overseas from the second half of this year. The indication is a major reversal from the current strict ban on Korean firms from investing in real estate in foreign countries, except for purposes other than manufacturing investments.

A Ministry of Finance [MOF] official said "the government will expand the scope of firms eligible to invest in real estate overseas from the second half of

this year after full consultation with the relevant ministries." He indicated that real estate firms and tourist companies can invest in overseas land, condominiums, hotels and ranches.

Even though purchase of foreign real estate is not linked to Korea's overseas direct investment in manufacturing, he said, it became unnecessary for the government to ban firms from buying real estate in foreign nations. The MOF had long hesitated in accommodating calls among local firms for investing in real estate overseas due to trade deficits. Furthermore, the general public, including government officials, had a fixed perception that real estate investment is speculation.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Comments on Industrialist's Arrest in U.S.

BK1903060493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0321 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 19 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The diplomatic practice of immediate notification—for the embassy of a country to be immediately informed when a national of that country is detained—will be useless if the notification is made too late, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Thursday. We do not want our citizens to be denied their basic rights in a foreign country, he told a press conference after a Japanese government fact-finding mission on Malaysia's economy called on him here. Abdullah was commenting on a United States Embassy statement on the arrest and detention of industrialist Perwaja Steel Managing Director Eric Chia in New York on March 2.

On why the Malaysian Consulate-General in New York was not immediately informed of Chia's arrest as provided for under the consular agreement between the two countries, the statement expressed regret that this was not done during the day of March 3, but maintained that the provision for immediate notification had not [been] breached given the short time of Chia's detention. Abdullah said the Foreign Ministry would summon the US Ambassador John Stern Wolf for an explanation.

Meanwhile, the Bar Council, commenting on allegations against Chia as contained in a US Embassy statement, said that even if they were true, the question was whether the manner in which Chia was treated was commensurate with the offence he was alleged to have committed. Chia told a press conference on Tuesday that he was insulted, thrown into jail and subjected to inhuman treatment by US authorities. He was later brought to court on a charge of harassment but was released by the judge who picked off the prosecution for putting up a flimsy case.

Washington, meanwhile, denied Kuala Lumpur's charges that it had breached a mutual diplomatic accord by not immediately informing the Malaysian consuler office in New York of Chia's March 2 arrest. The U.S. embassy here said that "immediate" notification of Eric Chia's arrest should mean "as soon as possible." "We do not believe that local authorities breached the provision for immediate notification... understanding that some time is inevitably taken in administrative processing," said Nicholas Mele, the embassy's counsellor for public affairs. He said Chia was arrested "on evidence that he had committed a crime" and that he was not exonerated although the court in which he was charged with harassment on March 3 released him.

"If Chia does not break U.S. law in the next six months, there will be no further court action and no record of the case," said Mele. Chia, the managing director of state-owned steel company Perwaja, had said on Tuesday that policemen, summoned by the airport guards, handcuffed him and bundled him into a car and took him to the New York Port Authority police station where he was stripped and locked up for 24 hours. The airport security guards, Chia said, called him a suspected drug addict and drunkard. He also showed reporters injuries on his left leg which he said resulted from kickings he received from drunk prisoners.

The Malaysian Government Wednesday accused the U.S. authorities of not according Chia "appropriate treatment," like allowing him to make a telephone call and to administer insulin injections although he was a diabetic. "We maintain that we should have been immediately informed. There is no use informing us at a time when nothing can be done," Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said Thursday, as his ministry's top officials prepare to summon the U.S. ambassador John Stern Wolf for an explanation. Officials said the incident could strain Kuala Lumpur-Washington relations, which had not been smooth in recent years, after the United States opposed the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) promoted by Mahathir as a grouping of east Asian nations saying it would become a trade bloc. "We regard this issue as serious and that is why we are summoning the ambassador. If not we could have just sent a diplomatic note. There is a meaning to every line of action we take," Abdullah said.

Americans 'Acting Like Cowboys'

BK1803140993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 18 (AFP)—Malaysia Thursday slammed the United States and demanded that officials in Washington stop behaving like cowboys after a confidant of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed was arrested and allegedly ill-treated in New York recently. "This is a fine example of American arrogance despite their claim to be a civilised country. They must stop acting like cowboys," said Mustapha Yaakob, a senior official of Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the dominant party in the ruling coalition.

Ministry Urges DPRK To Reconsider NPT Withdrawal

BK1703072393 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0604 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia Wednesday, expressed its regret over North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The Malaysian Foreign Minis.ry (Wisma Putra) said in a statement here the decision would weaken international efforts to establish and maintain a truly universal nuclear non-proliferation regime. The decision also carries serious

implications for the overall stability of the Asia Pacific region and in particular the Korean peninsula, it added.

In the statement, Malaysia appealed to North Korea to reconsider its decision and continue to contribute towards the process of regional confidence building and the enhancement of international security. Malaysia would also like to appeal to those countries who have not done so, to accede to the NPT so as to encourage and strengthen a global nuclear nonproliferation regime, it added.

Tokyo Policy Dialogue Mission Arrives in Malaysia

OW1403142093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 14 KYODO—A working-level Japanese Government mission arrived Sunday [14 March] for talks with Malaysian officials on how the two countries can best promote economic cooperation. During its weeklong stay, the mission will discuss the basic direction of future Japanese economic assistance to help Malaysia resolve problems requiring long-term approaches. This includes the wide gap between the Malaysia's rapidly industrializing west coast and largely rural east coast. Similar "policy dialogue" missions have earlier visited Egypt, China and Nepal, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The mission to Malaysia was promised by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa when he visited Kuala Lumpur in January as part of his Southeast Asian tour. The 18-member team, led by Kiyohisa Mikanagi, former ambassador to South Korea, comprises officials from various government departments, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and International Trade and Industry.

Government To Ban Import, Sale of Yugoslav Goods

BK1803112293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0931 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The government will ban the import and sale of Yugoslavian goods in protest against Serbian oppression of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Thursday. In taking the decision at a cabinet meeting Wednesday, the government directed the Finance Ministry and Royal Customs and Excise Department to issue a directive to that, he added.

He told a press conference here that the cabinet felt that the move was one of the ways to penalize the Serbs for their atrocities against Bosnian Muslims. The government is committed in helping the Muslims. The ban on Yugoslavian goods is an extension of its displeasure with Serbian cruelty, he said. [paassage indistinct]

Singapore

Official Views DPRK's Pullout From NPT Treaty

BK1803134893 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Singapore was "extremely concerned" over North Korea's statement that it was pulling out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, a Singapore Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday. "This will have very grave repercussions for the situation on the Korean peninsula and for the international nonproliferation regime," he said. He noted that the United Nations was already considering economic sanctions against North Korea if did not cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and urged Pyongyang to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the treaty.

Cambodia

Radio Reports on 'Essence' of Sihanouk Interview

BK1903021393 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Report on interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk by (BND) magazine correspondent on 16 March—place not given]

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, granted an interview to the monthy magazine (BND) on 16 March 1993. The following is the essence of the interview.

First question: The Phnom Penh side affirmed that there were 600,000 Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia during your era and that now there are 200,000. What is your view on this?

Answer: The prince replied that in Sihanouk's time there were 450,000 Vietnamese nationals and not 600,000 as the Phnom Penh side has said. Now leaders of the resistance movement have estimated that there are over 2 million Vietnamese. My estimate is that there are one million, who are legal; this is a fact.

Concerning Vietnamese nationals in Sihanouk's time, it was not me who allowed them in Cambodia. There were already many Vietnamese families in Cambodia since 1941, when I ascended the throne. The number of Vietnamese national kept increasing between 1941 and 1969.

Second question: What would be the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] role if FUNCINPEC loses in the coming May elections, which are to be held in such bad conditions?

Answer: The prince replied that winning or losing the elections is not important because the elections are going to be held in a situation in which:

1. The second phase was not entered into;

2. There were political murders and human rights violations;

3. Voting cards were confiscated;

4. Voters are not safe;

5. UNTAC has adopted laws allowing many Vietnamese to vote while Cambodians abroad and the Khmer Kraom [ethnic Cambodians living in the area now part of southern Vietnam] are excluded; and

6. Cambodia is still respectively controlled by various parties.

Third question: It is said that the Khmer Rouge are not strong; the Cambodian army [as heard] is about 20,000-strong; some units are independent from the Khmer Rouge command. What is your view on this?

Answer: People said the Khmer Rouge units, which arrested UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel, were units independent from the Khmer Rouge command. The so-called independent units, however, abided by and executed orders from the Khmer Rouge high command, which ordered the release of these UNTAC personnel.

It is true that Khmer Rouge forces are not as important as in the period from 1975 to 1978. Millions of dollars coming from the sale of gems and timber have been used to strengthen the Khmer Rouge's military and other forces that are resolute in a protracted struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets.

In 1960, the CIA estimated that the Khmer Rouge troops were only a few hundreds strong. Small groups of the Khmer Rouge army, however, won against the Khemarakphumin Army and the Khemarakphumin police [names of Cambodian army and police force in Sihanouk's time], which were 30,000 and over 10,000-strong respectively.

The size of Vietnam's puppet army, however, is bigger than that of the Khemarakphumin Army.

Fourth question: BANGKOK POST, 15 March 1993, wrote that according to Vietnamese sources within the puppet party in Phnom Penh, there is a power struggle between Hun Sen and Chea Sim-Sar Kheng. It was said that this conflict results from Hun Sen making too many concessions to the prince. What is your view on this?

Answer: Superficially, the Phnom Penh side makes it look as though it has helped me a lot. The fact is that the Phnom Penh side has not changed. Me too; I have not changed.

Hun Sen Objects To UNTAC Search of Government Office

BK1803145793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 18 Mar 93

["Letter from His Excellency Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia and Member of the Supreme National Council, to His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN Secretary General in Cambodia"—dated 17 March; read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency: I would like to inform you that after visiting Prey Veng province and after having close contact with the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials there, I continued my trip to Kompong Cham province. I was terribly shocked to hear a report on violation of rights and abuse of authority committed by officials of UNTAC's special administrative supervisory team while carrying out its mission in the province recently. UNTAC's teams used to commit the same kind of abuse in Prey Veng and Takeo provinces. And I already mentioned this issue to His Excellency [H.E.] Behrooz Sadry on 24 February 1993.

The incidents in Kompong Cham province, including the provincial city and Batheay and Tbong Khmum districts, constitute unacceptable breaches and occurred as follows:

On 15 March 1993 in Batheay district and on 16 March 1993 in Tbong Khmum district, the special UNTAC supervisory teams, sent by helicopters from Phnom Penh, carried out an encirclement and search operation without prior notice to or participation of the UNTAC officials stationed in the districts. In the course of the search, UNTAC officials harassed officials responsible for the offices there and the existing authorities and detained them for several hours. They also searched and xeroxed documents without consulting the responsible officials. Moreover, the UNTAC officials also seized and xeroxed small personal notebooks of the officials of the State of Cambodia [SOC] there. The gathering of the local officials, the search, and the prohibition of those officials from leaving their offices for several hours by the UNTAC officials have reminded me of the dirty acts committed by the Pol Pot regime during its heyday. In the face of the harassment, our local officials exhibited fortitude and tried not to react so as to avoid any incidents.

In the provincial city of Kompong Cham, the special supervisory team led by (Joan Liane) accused the SOC authorities of instigating 80-90 percent of the political terrorism and charged that terrorist acts occurred mostly in the province. This unfounded accusation by the UNTAC official has seriously affected our side's honor and the spirit of multifarious cooperation with UNTAC that our side has sacrificed for the sake of UNTAC's peace process and operation in Cambodia. The accusation has encouraged the faction refusing to implement

the accord and some other factions in finding the pretext for distracting the people's judgment in order to sabotage the forthcoming elections.

You have already been aware that only our SOC side has implemented the peace accord and has broadly cooperated with UNTAC even though some factions are trying to destroy the peace process and creating a gloomy atmosphere for the purpose of hindering the democratic process in Cambodia. It is with this spirit that we have accepted the administrative supervision from UNTAC in compliance with the Paris accord. Nevertheless, we (?dare) consider the acts committed by the special UNTAC supervisory teams an abuse of UNTAC's supervisory authority that can be likened to criminal investigations. These actions constitute a contempt for the existing administration and a terror and a threat to the Cambodian people.

In view of the aforementioned incidents, I would like Your Excellency to provide me with an emphatic clarification: Is the order for the special supervisory team to brutally conduct the encirclement and search in the manner of a criminal investigation an abuse of UNTAC's authority? Is it a violation of the Paris accord? Is it an attempt by UNTAC itself to destroy the peace plan? And do you consider our side a partner in the implementation of the accord or a culprit? UNTAC's current action has put us in the position of a culprit who needs to be encircled and searched by force.

Should Your Excellency still consider our party a partner and collaborator, what would you do to solve the improper actions committed by UNTAC officials in the recent past? Is it a lesson in democracy and human rights? And are the above measures taken by UNTAC a method to settle a deadlock created by other factions so as to pressure the faction respecting the accord?

Please, Your Excellency, check the abuse of authority by UNTAC's supervisory teams and prevent these actions from recurring. If these unacceptable abuses continue to occur, UNTAC should be accountable for all consequences that might arise.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to point out that our side has respected UNTAC's rights and authorities stipulated in the Paris accord, but we can never accept any action that contradicts the accord or is not specified by the accord. Our administration has actively cracked down on all manner of crimes according to rules of law. However, we cannot accept the action that places all of our administrative components and officials in the position of a culprit due to UNTAC officials' abuses. I cannot remain patient with the humiliation and terror suffered by my people who have been subjected to intimidation and pressure from foreigners who act as if they are colonialists of my country.

Your Excellency please accept my highest regards.

[Dated] Kompong Cham, 17 March 1993.

[Signed] Hun Sen, prime minister of the SOC and SNC member.
Copies to: His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman;
H.E. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general;
H.E. Behrooz Sadry of UNTAC;
H.E. General John Sanderson of UNTAC.

Factions Agree to UNTAC Arms Control Directive

BK1803061493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 17 (AFP)—Except for the Khmer Rouge, the other three factions in Cambodia have agreed to adopt a directive to control possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said Wednesday. The directive, signed by head of the United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, has made possession of unlicenced weapons illegal as of Wednesday.

But Falt said a three-week grace period till April 8 would be allowed to enable owners to obtain the correct papers or surrender their weapons. "Until that date, no penalty will be imposed," Falt said, adding that after the period those found in illegal possession of firearms could be jailed six months to three years.

Cambodian authorities will keep a register of licensed weapons and their owners, Falt said. "This greatly enhances the possibility of arresting criminals and reducing the number of weapons in Cambodia," he said, acknowledging that previous attempts to license weapons were inadequate. Cambodians who surrender their arms to UNTAC police or the military will receive a receipt and face no legal action, Falt said.

After experiencing two decades of unrest, most households in Cambodia possess at least one firearm each because of continuing threats of military or bandit attacks. The head of UNTAC civilian police, Brigadier General Klaas Roos, has attributed the easy access to weapons as a major contributor to Cambodia's crime problems.

Son Sann Communique Rejects 'Unequal Treaties'

BK1703072793 Phnom Penh PROETTEBAT PRACHAM SAPPADA RONAKSE CHEAT RUMDAOH PRACHEAPOLROAT KHMER in Cambodian 13 Mar 93 p 4

["Communique of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front Repudiating Unequal Treaties"; dated 9 March 1993]

[Text] We have noted that since January 1993 the "State of Cambodia" [SOC], formerly the "People's Republic of Kampuchea," has signed a host of unequal treaties, specifically the 25-year Kampuchea-Vietnam Solidarity and Friendship Treaty and the Kampuchea-Vietnam Border Treaty.

The party of the KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front], a signatory to the Paris 23 October 1991 accord on Cambodia, wishes to call on the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia to declare null and void all unequal treaties which have been concluded under foreign domination. By this communique, my party wishes to inform countries signatory to such treaties about the KPNLF's resolute and clear-cut stance on this issue.

We wish to draw the attention of those countries, which are the Cambodian people's friends, that henceforth all treaties, bilateral and multilateral alike, should be concluded with the SNC, which, according to article 3 of the Paris accord, is the "unique legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia." The SNC is the embodiment of Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, and national unity during the transitional period.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 9 March 1993
[Signed] Son Sann, chairman of the KPNLF and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and SNC member

Indonesia

Alatas Supports Korean Solution Via Dialogue

BK1903105593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Indonesia hopes that the current problem between North Korea and South Korea will be solved through dialogue. This was stated by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas who spoke to Indonesian newsmen in Jakarta this morning after the swearing-in of new ministers of the 6th Development Cabinet. Alatas said he was glad North Korea still wanted to hold a dialogue with the United States. However, the minister expressed concern over the recent development in the Korean penisula.

[Begin Alatas recording in progress] It is true that the recent development is a matter of concern. If I may say so, there are some problems working against a solution of the issue compared to the progress previously achieved by North Korea and South Korea through dialogues. Hopefully, the current problem could be solved amicably. [End recording]

The recent development in the Korean peninsular occured after North Korea reacted strongly against the holding of joint military exercises by the U.S. and South Korea. North Korea's strong reaction was seen in its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Economic Observer Defends New Cabinet Composition

BK1903131693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Professor Sumitro Joyohadikusumo, an observer of economic affairs, says that the negative perception toward the composition of the new Sixth Development cabinet by foreign countries is irrelevant to the national political life. Speaking after attending the installation ceremony of the Sixth Development cabinet ministers in Jakarta today, Prof. Sumitro said Western countries always adopt a negative view against any situation in Indonesia, including the formation of a new cabinet. He said the performance of cabinet ministers cannot be measured by their age, but the presence of relatively young ministers in the cabinet is something positive and correct.

Jakarta Welcomes Keating Electoral Victory

BK1603151893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 16 Mar 93

[Text] Jakarta, March 16 (AFP)—Indonesian President Suharto Tuesday welcomed "with happiness" the re-election of Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating last weekend. "The President welcomes with happiness the reelection of Prime Minister Keating following the results of elections several days ago," State Secreatry Minister Murdiono announced at the palace. He said Keating has "a very realistic" orientation which was "in line with the interest of Indonesia and other countries in this region," namely his vision that Australia was part of Asia.

Relations between the two countries have often been strained in the past because of what the Indonesian government has perceived as misreporting or overly critical coverage of Indonesia in the Australian press. Although good ties prevail between officials of the two countries, Canberra's stance on human rights, especially in relation to East Timor, has irked Jakarta.

Ali Kafi, Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulate Suharto

BK1803083693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Algerian President Ali Kafi and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi cabled their congratulatory messages to President Haji Mohamed Suharto on his reelection as president of the Republic of Indonesia for the 1993-98 period.

According to information received from the embassies of the two countries in Jakarta, the congratulatory messages were dispatched by the leaders of the North African states one day prior to the appointment of President Suharto.

President Ali Kafi, who wrote his message in French, expressed the hope that the friendly relations and cooperation between Algeria and Indonesia would be further developed and stepped up. A similar message was also dispatched by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi through the Libyan charge de affaires in Jakarta.

Philippines

Senate To Tackle Power Crisis; Rejects Emergency Powers

HK1903045393 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 19 Mar 93 p 3

[Report by Joem H. Macaspac]

[Text] The Senate yesterday moved to preempt Malacanang from insisting that the President be granted emergency powers to resolve the power crisis as its leaders said the chamber is prepared to squarely deal with the power problem.

Instead of considering the Malacanang proposal for extraordinary powers for Ramos, Senate President Edgardo Angara, one of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP-struggle of Filipino Democrats] senators who turned down proposals to immediately grant extraordinary powers to the President, disclosed that the Senate will pry into the frequent breakdowns of major power plants as part of a comprehensive package of measures geared toward providing short-term and lasting solutions to the deepening power crunch.

The LDP senators have practically junked the Malacanang proposal, claiming the President has enough powers to deal with the emergency.

Angara said the Senate will even hire its own team of private consultants and advisers, including electrical and mechanical engineering experts, to look into the successive shutdown of the country's generating plants that resulted in crippling brownouts in Metro Manila and surrounding areas lasting from six to eight hours.

He also disclosed that the Senate will tap two committees—public services and energy—to conduct ocular inspection of all Napocor [National Power Corporation] and Manila Electric Company plants "to find out what's wrong with them."

According to Angara, the Senate committees on energy and on public services are mulling at least nine pending bills designed to develop non-conventional energy sources and check the illegal use of electricity.

"Congress has to take urgent and bold steps to help ease the crippling power crisis which is expected to turn for the worse," Angara said.

Angara is confident that the Senate can also come up with the long-term solutions to the problem.

In particular, Angara said that two Senate committees are pushing for the following measures:

—Senate Bill [SB] No. 422—promoting the exploration and production of indigenous oil and gas;
—SB 602—accelerating the development and manufacture of state-of-the-art solar conversion power systems;
—SB 245—creating a national program on the use of cheap, non- conventional sources of power like wind and ocean power;
—SB 562—granting incentives to developers and users of such alternative energy systems;
—SB 423—promoting the exploration and development of geothermal sources;
—SB 736—providing stiff penalties on illicit tapping of electricity or tampering of electric meters;
—SB 16—penalizing the destruction of energy facilities; and
—SB 732—penalizing illegal possession of electric power transmission and distribution lines.

"We need to search for and utilize indigenous and renewable energy sources in order to contain the power crunch," Angara said.

House Speaker Proposes Trade With Iran, Mexico

HK1903125193 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] House Speaker Jose de Venecia has proposed extensive trade with Iran and Mexico. Under the proposal, there would be exchanges of products between the Philippines and the oil-rich countries. Iran and Mexico will export crude oil to the Philippines in exchange for garments, electronics, various kinds of fruits, mineral products, and construction projects. The plan was based on talks de Venecia held earlier with Jose Kamali, Iran's acting minister of labor and social affairs, and (Luis Cocca Alvarez), a Mexican envoy. De Venecia has also proposed that the Department of Foreign Affairs hold negotiations with Iran for economic developments.

On the countertrade agreement presented by de Venecia, Iran and Mexico must provide the country $300 million worth of crude oil, 25 percent of which will be paid in cash while the remaining 75 percent will be paid with Philippine products. De Venecia proposed that a $20 million oil exploration fund be set up and funded equally by businessmen from the Iran and Mexico.

Thailand

Prasong, UN Chief Discuss Cambodian Issues

BK1803150593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, who has just returned from attending a roundtable meeting at the United Nations, reported to newsmen that he had a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali over the Cambodian problem and proposed to him that there should be a review of the UN Security Council's resolution about sanctions against the Khmer Rouge. Prasong said he expressed concern that fighting was going on in Cambodia despite the presence of forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and that there has been no unity among the Cambodian factions. He pointed out that there was a

concern that the situation might deteriorate once the election had been held and the UNTAC forces pulled out from Cambodia. Squadron Leader Prasong said the UN secretary general also expressed concern over the Cambodian problem.

Prasong said he planned to meet the UN secretary general again in Bangkok during April when the latter comes to Thailand for the inauguration of the new ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific] building. Before coming to Thailand, the UN secretary general will visit Vietnam and Cambodia. Prasong said he looks forward to the meeting as he expects to see more clearly the direction toward solving the problem in Cambodia.

Ministers Sign Lao Border Demarcation Minutes

BK1903011393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] Phuket—Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan and his Laotian counterpart yesterday agreed that more facts were needed to resolve the dispute over the Ban Romklao border area. The joint technical subcommittee has been assigned to gather the additional information for presentation to a special meeting of the Joint Boundary Committee to be held in Vientiane later this year.

The outcome of the committee meeting which ended here yesterday indicates Thailand and Laos will have to wait at least until the next meeting for a solution to the problem. But Dr Surin and Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat both said in their closing speeches after signing the "agreed minutes" that they were satisfied with the results. They also described the outcome as progress in attempts to resolve the dispute.

"I regard the results as a continued success from previous meetings," said Dr Surin.

Mr Souban said the success and progress could be judged from the outcome of the meeting itself.

The Laotian minister said the facts on hand were insufficient to make a judgment on the Ban Romklao dispute because "some evidence from 1907 has yet to be found". He said the two sides would make a decision on the problem as soon as possible.

Thailand and Laos are using the 1907 Siamese-Franco Treaty as a basis for solving the dispute. But differences remain between the two countries in interpreting the treaty.

Dr Surin said the two sides had been confident the existing evidence was sufficient for negotiations but they found out later that more was needed.

They then agreed to leave the responsibility for finding the additional evidence to the technical committee. The Thai members in the sub-committee are led by Krit Kanchana Kunchon, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Treaties and Legal Affairs Department while Alounkeo Kittikhoun, director-general of the Lao Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organisation, heads the Laotian members.

A Thai delegate said Thailand had all the evidence necessary to prove that Ban Romklao was in Phitsanulok's Chat Trakan District. Laos clains the village is part of Sayaboury Province.

Mr Souban denied that Laos had attempted to declare an area of 70 square kilometres a no-man's land, but said it was one way of reaching a solution to the dispute.

Dr Surin, in his speech, called for more "informal meetings" between the two countries if problems occur. This was agreed to by his counterpart.

The signing ceremony was delayed for about four hours as both sides discussed the content of the "agreed minutes" before having them signed by the deputy foreign ministers who cochaired the committee. The delay was also partly due to technical problems on the part of Laotian delegates.

Mr Souban said the delay had not stemmed from disagreements between the two sides and called for both Thailand and Laos to comply sincerely with the agreement signed by himself and Dr Surin.

The dispute over Ban Romklao erupted into a skirmish between Thai and Laotian armed forces in late-1987. A ceasefire was reached on February 17, 1988.

Cambodian Refugees To Be Repatriated by Mid-April

BK1903051893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] All displaced Cambodians left in Thailand are expected to be repatriated within the first half of April. The office of the Thai-Cambodian Border Liaison Committee says over 321,000 displaced Cambodians have been repatriated and some 18,000 have chosen to travel back themselves. Over 33,500 Cambodians are now left at the Site 2 center, which is the last center to be closed down in the next two weeks. Until the closing down of Site 2, some 10,000 displaced Cambodians will be left in Thailand. However, all those displaced persons from Cambodia will be repatriated before 30 April, the date set for the closing down of Site 2.

Air Service Agreement Signed With DPRK

BK1903010793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] Thailand and North Korea yesterday signed their first air service agreement to promote economic cooperation and tourism, despite the latter pulling out of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The signing came at the time when South Korea and North Korea are increasingly at odds since that event.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and North Korean ambassador Yi To-sop signed the accord at a brief ceremony at the Foreign Ministry.

An informed source, who monitors the Korean peninsula, said the Foreign Ministry had planned for the signing long before North Korea withdrew from the IAEA.

The source said Thailand was reluctant at first to conclude the agreement when it found out that Pyongyang had decided to leave the IAEA.

But the government decided to sign the air service agreement anyway on the basis that politics should be separated from mutual cooperation.

"The agreement does not mean that Thailand supports the withdrawal of that country from the international atomic energy body. Actually Thailand strongly opposes the withdrawal," the same source said.

The North Korean withdrawal from the treaty means that its nuclear development facilities need not be subjected to international inspection.

The air agreement is a major step towards promoting and enhancing bilateral commercial and tounst activities, which will also strengthen mutual understanding between the governments and the peoples of both countries.

The first Air Koyo flight will arrive in Bangkok from Pyongyang on April 5.

Thailand will be the third country to win landing rights to Pyongyang apart from Russia's Aeroflot and China's CAAC.

However, the source expressed doubt whether the scheduled first flight from Pyongyang would be operated.

Thai national flag carrier Thai Internatlonal Airways has no plans to fly to North Korea.

Special Legal Status Sought for Japanese Residents

BK1303043493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Mar 93 p B1

[Text] Japan is pressing Thailand to provide special status, or national treatment, to Japanese investors who wish to do business in Thailand.

Japanese officials have pointedly asked the Thai Government to allow the Japanese investors to have more equity in the service business. Currently, the Thai Government has limited the foreign ownership to 49 per cent In the service sector.

"If a company or a person is allowed to come to Thailand, they should be given the possible national treatment in principle," said Koji Tsuruoka, head of service negotiations at the Foreign Ministry.

Tsuruoka met Suchai Chaowisittha, deputy permanent secretary of the Commerce Ministry, yesterday to discuss liberalization of the service sector as well as the ongoing multilateral trade talks under the Uruguay Round.

Suchai said that the Japanese trade negotiator also proposed that Thai and Japanese governments should establish the bilateral treaty of amity to ensure Japanese citizens will be granted the same right as the local citizens in Thailand, and vice versa.

The Thai Government is now providing national treatment to US investors under the Thai-US Treaty of Amity 1966. Suchai said that Japanese officials have cited the existing Thai-US Treaty of Amity as being discriminatory against other foreign investors.

"The agreement has existed for more than 20 years, and it is not likely to easily abrogate the treaty," he said.

In response to the Japanese request, Suchai said the Thai Government is about to liberalize trade in services.

Thai officials will have to consider the Revolutionary Council Announcement 281 which limits the holdings of foreign investors. "We have to take into account whether Thai investors are ready to compete against foreign firms," said Suchai.

At any rate, the Thai Government will propose at the multilateral negotiations under the Uruguay Round that it offers to add 19 more service sectors to make a total of 73.

"All trading partners, especially Japan, will benefit from the Thai offers," said Suchai.

The Thai Government, at this time, has allowed the foreign investors to hold up 49 per cent in service sector. Tsuruoka said, "We have stated that it should be more attractive for Japanese or other investors to come to Thailand, if the Thai Government allows more foreign ownership in the local companies.

"We do not want to have 100 per cent equity, but we wish the Thai Government would allow the Japanese investors to take majority of the equity," he said.

Tsuruoka's visit to Thailand is a part of the unofficial Japanese mission to ASEAN countries, aimed at getting the four countries Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand to improve their offers in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Azerbaijan Seeks Thai Participation in Oil Exploration

BK1603022593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Mar 93 p 26

[Text] Azerbaijan yesterday invited Thailand to participate in oil exploration in the country. The invitation was extended by the visiting Azerbaijani delegation, led by adviser to President Najaf Najafov, to Deputy Industry Minister Phonthep Techaphaibun. Mr Phonthep said it is possible that Thailand, through the Petroleum Authority of Thailand [PTT], may team up with Unocal Corp if it decided to invest in oil exploration in Azerbaijan. He said it

is also possible for both countries to establish a counter-trade arrangement—Thai rice for Azerbaijani oil. PTT Governor Luan Kritsanakri said no concrete agreement has been reached on the issues but both countries agreed to explore the opportunities involved.

Timber Firms Continue Logging in Cambodia

BK1903012193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] Sisaket—Thai timber companies are continuing to cut down trees inside Cambodia and have stacked piles of logs along the border ready to be hauled into Thailand, according to military sources. 30,000-40,000 pieces are neatly stacked at about eight points along the border and can be seen clearly from Hill 620 north of Phra Phalai Pass, the sources said.

Three Thai companies from Sisaket Province—Amnatcharoen, Sin Siamwarin and A Victor Development—have received five-year concessions to fell trees in Khmer Rouge held territory to obtain a total of 1.2 million cubic metres of wood. The companies have cut several dirt tracks linking Ban Anlung in Chomkrasan District of Preah Vihear with Phra Phalai pass, the sources said.

Vietnam

Israeli Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits

BK1803144993 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—A delegation of the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs led by Dr. Yosef Hadas, director general of the Foreign Ministry, paid a working visit to Vietnam from March 15-18 to discuss cooperation between the two countries in the economic, medical, educational commercial and investment fields.

During its stay here, the delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum. It was received by Vice Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien and met with the representatives of the Africa-Western Asia Department of the Foreign Ministry, the Ministries of Commerce, Agriculture, and Public Health, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Israeli guests left here today for Ho Chi Minh City.

Memorandums of Understanding

TA1903124693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Mar 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Yesterday Israel and Vietnam signed their first two memorandums of understanding, one between the two Foreign Ministries and another between the Chambers of Commerce. The trade memorandum states that in anticipation of the establishment of full diplomatic relations, the two sides will take steps toward expanding economic and trade cooperation. The possibility of opening an Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam was also discussed. The memorandums were signed in the course of an official visit to Vietnam by an Israeli delegation which had been invited by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

At a dinner for Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas, who headed the delegation, and for the other delegates, the Vietnamese deputy foreign minister voiced his confidence that the two countries will soon establish full diplomatic relations. He expressed a desire to visit Israel, to which Hadas promptly responded with an invitation.

Aside from Hadas, the Israeli delegation includes 'Oded 'Eran, Foreign Ministry deputy director general in charge of Economic Divisions; Ehud Gol, director of the International Cooperation Division; and David Matna'i, director of the Africa, Asia, and Oceania Division.

The memorandum of understanding signed by the two Foreign Ministries states that a Vietnamese delegation will pay a reciprocal visit to Israel within six months.

The talks between the two sides focused on trade ties and technological cooperation. They agreed to establish a joint consultation forum, consisting of representatives of the two Foreign Ministries, which will convene periodically to discuss these two issues. The forum will identify areas in which cooperation between the two countries can be enhanced and encourage businessmen and entrepreneurs to launch joint projects, while the two governments will undertake to remove obstacles preventing such activities and help businessmen open offices in the two countries; Israel will consider inviting Vietnamese trainees to courses in Israel and opening courses in Vietnam in the spheres of agriculture, telecommunications, and medicine—with an emphasis on fast AIDS detection. In the memorandum, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry expresses satisfaction with the inclusion of a doctor and several businessmen in the Israeli delegation.

Yesterday the Israeli delegation left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City (former Saigon), after three days of talks with heads of the Trade, Agriculture, Health, and Foreign Ministries. It is scheduled to leave Vietnam today.

Hanoi Reaffirms Palestinian Support

BK1803151493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Hanoi, March 18 (AFP)—Hanoi reaffirmed its long-standing support for the Palestinian cause Thursday following the first official visit to Vietnam by an Israeli delegation. "Vietnam reaffirms its recognition of the state of Palestine and its desire to develop the friendly relations and lasting cooperation between Vietnam and Palestine," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Ho The Lan said. "Vietnam reiterates its support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their

fundamental rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state," she added. Lan sidestepped questions on the possible establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Israel, which Vietnamese officials had said would be among the topics discussed during the visit. "As agreed, this visit mainly dealt with economic and trade relations," she told a regular news briefing. [passsage omitted]

Foreign Minister Writes to Sihanouk, Akashi

BK1803143593 Hanoi VNA in English 1424 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam has sent separate letters to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia and Mr Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) urging them to take resolute measures to stop the masscres of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

The letter said:

'We earnestly hope that as president of the SNC, you would use your great prestige and influence to instruct the SNC to take urgent, vigorous and effective measures to protect the Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia. This will manifest your determination and the spirit of the joint statement which I had the honour to sign with you in January 1992'.

The letter to the UNTAC chief urged him to make full use of the mandate given him by the Paris agreement to protect the peaceful life of the Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia and their legitimate interests guaranteed by the Paris agreement and other international conventions on human rights.

Vo Van Kiet To Visit Japan in 'Near Future'

BK1903115093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text]The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today issued a communique saying that at the invitation of the Japanese government, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will pay an official visit to Japan in the near future.

Agriculture Minister Visits Cuba To Expand Cooperation

BK1803121593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Mar 93

[Text] A SRV Government economic delegation led by Nguyen Cong Tan, member of the Party Central Committee, minister of agriculture and food industry, and concurrently chairman of the Vietnam-Cuba Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation arrived in Havana on 14 March to attend the commission's 13d meeting. On 16 March, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with the Cuban delegation led by Comrade (Turo Gosban), chief of the State Pricing Commission.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on the results achieved in their cooperation during the past year. They unanimously agreed that in the days ahead more efforts would be made by both sides to expand cooperation in the fields of fishery, public health, and trade.

Vo Van Kiet Congratulates Australia's Keating

BK1803145993 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has sent his congratulations to Paul Keating on the occasion of his re- eletion as prime minister of Australia.

The message said:

'I note with satisfaction that the multifaceted relations of cooperation and friendship between our two countries in the past years have not ceased to grow and become ever more fruitful.'

The message wished the relations between the two countries further consolidation and development in the interests of the people of the two countries, for peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in Asia, the Pacific and the rest of the world'.

Monetary Market Stable Despite New Currency

BK1703133493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] After the issuance of bank notes with denominations of 20,000 and 50,000 dong, the monetary market in Ho Chi Minh City and the southern provinces remains stable. The Foreign Currency Trading Center and gold, silver, and precious gems trading shops have been selling three times the amount of gold and foreign currencies compared with the same period before the new bank notes were issued. The total amount of foreign currencies that production and trading establishments need for their overseas payments is satisfactorily supplied.